MARCH 23 SPECIAL EDITION
BRUSSELS • ROB FORD • FEDERAL BUDGET

Toronto metro

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Making sense of the day
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EUROPE ON LOCKDOWN

- MANHUNT ON FOR TERROR SUSPECT
- BRUSSELS MOURNS AT LEAST 34 DEAD

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

'He represented the imperfections in all of us, even those of us who despised him for it'

ROB FORD

1969 -2016

THE FIGHT ENDS

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ROB FORD: 1969—2016

Toronto's mayor of the people

OBITUARY

He loved this city with a passion all his own

Oakland Ross
Torstar News Service

Rob Ford makes his way through thousands of people at Ford Fest in Toronto on July 25, 2014. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Had we not lived through it, we might not now believe it.

But we did live through it, and so we know that it was neither a dream nor a fantasy.

It was something altogether real — the topsy-turvy four-year mayoralty of Robert Bruce Ford, a man known to Torontonians and most Canadians, not to mention late-night television viewers across the continent, as plain Rob Ford, a simple, moniker for a complicated and flamboyant man, who split this city's residents into two mutually uncomprehending camps.

Some adored him, others couldn't bear him, and never the twain shall meet, not at least while Ford was alive.

Now he is gone.

At just 46 years of age, the former mayor of Canada's largest city has died after a lengthy battle with cancer.

He leaves behind his wife, Renata, as well as two children, Stephanie and Douglas, and a host of other relatives, many of them already familiar to the people of this city.

Toronto's 64th mayor was a walking, talking affirmation of the famous but probably apocryphal Chinese curse: May you live in interesting times.

Both as a long-serving city councillor and later as mayor, Ford was surely interesting. He was also the polar opposite of dull and the mortal enemy of slick.

Most of the time, he was exactly what he seemed to be — a plain-spoken populist who wore his outsize heart on his rolled-up sleeve. At other times, he was another kind of creature altogether — a blitzed-out loner who found comfort in the company of criminal enablers, while smoking crack cocaine and spouting homophobic and racist slurs.

Even before Torstar News Service published details of the mayor's infamous crack video, this city was well on the way to realizing its Ford-fuelled fate as an internationally recognized punchline for joke after joke, each more embarrassing than the one before and all recounted without mercy on late-night American TV.

People laughed, but it wasn't funny, not when you considered that Rob Ford was in many ways a seriously troubled man.

But try telling him that.

When taken to task for reading or using his cellphone while behind the wheel of his Chevy Uplander minivan — later upgraded to a Cadillac Escalade — Ford seemed genuinely nonplussed by the criticism, unable to fathom why anyone would care. Yes, both practices are illegal and potentially deadly, his manner seemed to say. And, yes, the mayor is a role model for the city. But, so?

Given a choice between stabbing him in the back — metaphorically speaking — and enfolding him in their arms, even his opponents would sometimes choose to sheathe their blades and opt for a hug, if only because Ford so often looked as if he could really, really use one.

> **For a fiction writer, it's too improbable ... Nobody would believe this.** Author Margaret Atwood

He certainly had his devotees — the so-called Ford Nation — and they were passionately loyal. Many Torontonians, particularly those who revere Don Cherry — or else are Don Cherry — also revered Rob Ford.

"I say he's going to be the greatest mayor this city has ever, ever seen, as far as I'm concerned," the bombastic hockey pundit and right-wing gadfly remarked at Ford's inauguration in 2010. "You can put that in your pipe, you left-wing kooks."

Ford loved to present himself as a sort of working man's hero, the product of a hardscrabble upbringing, but in fact he hailed from considerable wealth. He was born to Douglas Sr. and Diane Ford on May 28, 1969, the youngest of four children — three sons and one daughter. His father, who died of colon cancer in 2006, was a businessman and sometime politician (he represented Etobicoke-Humber as a Conservative MPP from 1995 to 1999) who truly possessed a stirring, up-by-the-bootstraps back story. Rob, however, got where he did thanks in no small measure to Douglas Sr.'s self-made fortune.

The source of that fortune is a company called Deco Labels & Tags, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012. Now with manufacturing facilities in Etobicoke, Chicago and New Jersey, Deco is reported to generate more than $100 million in annual sales.

The company's early success subsidized the construction of a large, six-bedroom house, complete with swimming pool, on a quiet street just off Royal York Road in Etobicoke. It was there that Rob Ford grew up, eventually attending Scarlett Heights Collegiate, where he played on the football team, a sport that was to become a lifelong passion.

Ford headed to Ottawa to study for a bachelor's degree in political science at Carleton University, while playing on the offensive line of the intercollegiate Ravens football team. Sort of. According to a 2012 profile by Toronto Life writer Marci McDonald, he failed to complete his degree and was played only sparingly — if at all — by the Ravens' coaches during his one and only year on the team.

Ford returned to Toronto, where he was hired as chief financial officer at the family firm.

In March 2008, his wife Renata called 911 about a domestic contretemps that led to an assault charge being laid against her husband. It was later withdrawn. Three years later, Renata's mother phoned police from her son-in-law's residence to complain that he was drinking excessively and also threatening to take his children to Florida against Renata's will.

In another incident, Ford directed a tirade of abuse at a couple of visitors during a hockey game at the Air Canada Centre.

Ford had to be escorted from the building. At first, he flatly denied the incident, but eventually he conceded it was true. He offered his apologies.

A pattern of crisis management — deny, deny, deny; then dissimulate; then confess; then promise to make it up — was to recur again and again.

Meanwhile, Ford's political career continued to unfold. Still, his decision to run for the Toronto mayoralty in 2010 caught many by surprise.

In keeping with his loner reputation at council, Ford ran for the mayoralty as an outsider, on a platform that chiefly stressed his determination to cut what he saw as unnecessary or frivolous spending at city hall.

"Stop the gravy train!" he cried, and soon found himself wearing the mayor's chain.

On his first day in office, Ford summarily cancelled Transit City, the light-rail transportation master plan devised by former mayor David Miller.

Ford and his brother Doug, now a councillor, soon began co-hosting a Sunday afternoon radio talk show on Newstalk 1010, in which they mainly conducted interviews with people who agreed with them.

His role as volunteer coach of the football team at Don Bosco Catholic Secondary School in north Etobicoke seemed to bring out both what was best and worst in Ford's personality.

There can be little question that he cared deeply for the young men on his team.

But to carry out his self-imposed obligations on the gridiron, he stole time, energy and other resources from his job at city hall.

He also made a series of unfortunate public comments that seemingly disparaged students at Don Bosco, and so the school dropped him from his coaching position, and the Toronto Catholic District School Board announced Ford would no longer be welcome as a coach at any of its schools.

Ford received his marching papers as a football coach only a few days after Torstar broke the now infamous Rob Ford crack-smoking video story.

Next, the police got involved, conducting a long and exhaustive investigation that confirmed almost all the bad news.

Here was Rob Ford pantomiming a drunk driver during a raucous council session. Here was Rob Ford trundling across the council floor to accidentally knock over a fellow council member.

Here was Rob Ford, in a disturbing fury, boasting on a cellphone video about how he was going to rip out the throat and poke out the eyes of some unnamed adversary.

Here was Rob Ford publicly discussing his preferred forms of sexual intimacy.

And here was Rob Ford appearing with his long-suffering wife in front of the cameras to apologize for the crude statement he had just made about her, thereby reminding everybody of the crude statement he had just made about her.

Eventually, an overwhelming majority of city councillors found a way to separate Rob Ford from most of his powers.

Meanwhile, additional images surfaced, showing Ford smoking crack cocaine yet again.

This time, he took a leave from his job and sought help at an addiction clinic in Muskoka.

It might all have ended on election day in October 2014, with a majority of Toronto voters making a collective decision to thank Rob Ford for the memories while putting an end to his run as mayor.

But another plot twist intervened — the discovery of a large tumour in the mayor's abdomen, later diagnosed as a rare form of cancer called liposarcoma.

Doug Ford replaced his younger brother as mayoral candidate and lost, while Rob entered the contest for his old council seat, and won.

In the wake of that vote, the brothers continued to talk about their political aspirations, while Rob Ford struggled valiantly against what eventually became his most dangerous foe, a disease called cancer.

That struggle is ended now, and Robert Bruce Ford is dead, just midway through his fifth decade of life.

He was a husband, a father, a brother, and a son. He loved this city with a passion all his own, and he worked hard in the service of his beliefs.

Say what else you will about him, he made for interesting times, and he deserved a kinder fate.

ROB FORD: 1969—2016

Taxpayers, politicians leave remembrances

CITY HALL

Chalk messages left in Nathan Phillips Square

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A book of condolences was set out in the foyer of city hall, next to a bouquet of red flowers, on a desk set against a somber navy curtain.

But Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti decided something different was required Tuesday morning to mark the death of former mayor Rob Ford.

Mammoliti invited the city to join him in writing chalk messages for Ford in Nathan Phillips Square — just as hundreds of people did spontaneously when Jack Layton died.

In front of the Toronto sign, with news cameras watching in the cool, spring sun, Mammoliti bent down and wrote in big block letters: "You may be gone, but your voice has been heard, and you will be with us forever."

Afterward, Mammoliti called Ford's passing a message from God. "God took him today, and if there's one thing Rob's learning up there right now, I think, is that God's probably telling him that his message has been heard," Mammoliti said.

Ford's message, Mammoliti said, was about respect for taxpayers.

Christine Custodio watched as people wrote messages. But she couldn't decide what to write herself. "I like this one," she said, pointing to a message that read: "RIP Ford, The Peoples' Mayor."

"Because that's who he was," Custodio said. "He was so passionate about the city, whether you agreed with him or disagreed with him."

Top: One of the many chalk memorials that popped up in Nathan Phillips Square. **Bottom:** People wishing to pay tribute to Rob Ford in a memorial book wait in line at city hall. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

INFLUENCE

Ford's tricky legacy

Matt Elliott
Metro | Toronto

Even when Rob Ford's appearances at Toronto City Hall became less and less frequent due to illness, the city's most infamous ex-mayor maintained a presence — a political influence that refused to quit. Ford's death on Tuesday at the age of 46 is unlikely to change that.

Despite a mayoralty that will be remembered most for all the things that happened away from his office, Ford's legacy within city hall has already shown itself to be strong. Much of it is related to the issues that defined Ford's brand of political populism: the sanctity of cars and subways, the inherent evils of taxation, the supposed existence of oodles of government waste.

With all such issues, too much decision-making continues to be shaped by a fear shared by several of his former council colleagues — especially those in the city's suburbs.

They worry that taking a position too contrary to those held by the former mayor will attract the rage of a group of voters: the "Ford Nation."

It's a tricky legacy. On one hand, it's enormously frustrating. So many of Ford's positions were based on feelings instead of facts. They made for disastrously bad policy decisions.

But on the other hand, the fear of Ford works as a check on those who would assume the entire amalgamated city has bought into the virtue of transit, bikes, urbanism and public services.

I would have liked to see someone who understands that go up against Ford in an election. I would have liked to see voters get to decide definitively and democratically whether to reject or again embrace Ford's politics.

But, instead, city hall is left to grapple with a complicated and resilient legacy.

Cancer took Rob Ford, but something remains.

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ROB FORD: 1969—2016

The Rob Ford train

The more Rob Ford fell into scandal, the more the media flocked to him. As a result, part of his legacy will be a wealth of images — some poignant, others bizarre — that offered the world a glimpse into his life.

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Appealing to the people

Ford worked hard to cultivate a populist image, often dealing with even minor constituent complaints personally. His boots on the ground approach to politics translated into an unflappable popularity in his Etobicoke ward.

That video

Ford's legacy will inevitably be linked to the infamous crack video. Although he spent months denying the allegations, he eventually confessed in 2013, saying he used crack-cocaine in "one of my drunken stupors."

Late-night TV fame

Even at the height of the crack-cocaine scandal, Ford seemed to relish his growing infamy. He even appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live in 2014 to discuss his drug use and became a recurring punchline on the comedian's talk show.

Health battle

As if Ford's saga couldn't get more dramatic, he was diagnosed with cancer in the middle of the 2014 municipal election. The news united even Ford's most ardent critics, many expressing sympathy and wishing him a speedy recovery.

Collectors' items

While he was mayor, Ford brought levity to the office, something that's unusual among Canadian politicians. His popular branded bobbleheads — which he would spend hours signing for fans — quickly became coveted collectors' item in the city.

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Family man

Nearly every eulogy for Rob Ford Tuesday mentioned his commitment to family, shown here celebrating his re-election as a city councillor in 2014.

Friends and foes

Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti was among Ford's closest friends and allies on council, often voting with the mayor when no other councillors would.

Love of the game

Ford loved football, even if the game didn't always love him back.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORONTO STAR

ROB FORD: 1969—2016

Torontonians remain divided

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Shuli Jones

The most important thing is to remember to step back a little bit and give their family time to recover.

Katrina Mitchell

He wasn't a great mayor and he was pretty crazy, I guess. But it's still sad when he passes away.

Antonio Downey

He was a great man and a real role model. People bullied him ... but we have to remember we're all human.

Brother's tribute to 'my best friend'

Reaction to Rob Ford's death came from across politics, but was led by his brother Doug, a city councillor.

Doug Ford, who replaced his younger brother on the mayoral ticket in 2014, sent a statement to CP24.

"My heart is ripped out. I loved Rob so much, I took care of him and protected him from the day he was born," the statement said. "He was my best friend."

As a councillor who represented Etobicoke for more than a decade, and for four roller-coaster years as mayor, Ford was remembered as "profoundly human."

Ford's council colleagues, many who once turned their backs on him in the council chamber after he refused to seek help for substance abuse, confined their reminiscences to his behind-the-scenes grace and commitment to the people.

"Put the politics aside, he was a very caring politician, and his constituents always came first," said council veteran and speaker Frances Nunziata.

Coun. John Filion, who wrote a sympathetic biography about Ford called The Only Average Guy, said both his life and death were "tragic."

"You know, he really never had that second chance that everybody deserves in life," Filion said. He recalled telling Ford how he seemed "like a totally different person" after he spent time in rehab. Ford agreed and told Filion he planned to do things differently. "Two days later he got sick again and never had a chance to do any of that."

Mayor John Tory, who challenged Ford in 2014 for the mayor's chair, said his thoughts were with Ford's family.

"His time in city hall included moments of kindness, generosity to his council colleagues and real efforts to do what was best for the city of Toronto," Tory said at a press conference. "He was above all else a profoundly human guy whose presence in our city will be very much missed."

Both Premier Kathleen Wynne and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau acknowledged Ford's death.

Six years ago, real-estate agent Rob Shusterman did a double take when a rental application listed the newly elected mayor as a reference.

"I phoned Rob Ford up to make sure this was true," Shusterman, 54, said Tuesday at Toronto city hall while waiting to sign a condolence book.

About five minutes later, Shusterman's phone rang, he recalled. "I couldn't believe he called me back," said Shusterman. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INTERNATIONAL REACTION

Celebrity remains in the farthest corners of globe

News of Rob Ford's death garnered reaction and headlines throughout the United States and as far away as Australia.

As Ford family representatives confirmed he had died, the term "Rob Ford" became a trending topic on Facebook and Twitter.

Major U.S. media outlets including CNN, NBC and CBS all featured stories about Ford's life and death as top stories.

Late-night TV host Jimmy Kimmel, who interviewed Ford in 2014, sent his condolences on Twitter, calling him an "unforgettable guy who loved his job and city like few men I've met."

An Esquire story was based on the premise that the "next Rob Ford" could be the President of the United States — an apparent allusion to Donald Trump.

"The man rewrote the political playbook without trying. Rob Ford died an accidental prophet," it reads. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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ROB FORD: 1969—2016

Policy hits and misses

In his four-year term as mayor, Rob Ford was at the centre of many well-documented scandals, both personal and political. His legacy on policy at city hall is just as complicated.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

SUCCESSES

TTC as an essential service: At the first regular meeting of council and fresh off an election win, Ford successfully saw council request the province declare the Toronto Transit Commission as an essential service and prevent further labour disruptions. The province stopped strikes by or lockouts of TTC workers the following year.

Privatizing garbage collection: After promising to contract out garbage citywide, Ford claimed victory for contracting out just one west-end district when council approved that move in 2011. The first contract was awarded to Green For Life later that year.

Subways: Ford's ongoing mission to put all-new transit underground served up one victory in October 2013 when council voted to scrap plans for a fully funded LRT in the east end and build a three-stop subway instead — a decision that cost the city at least $75 million in lost work. Today plans have changed again to a questionable one-stop subway still being debated at council.

MISSTEPS

Subways: After declaring former mayor David Miller's light-rail Transit City plan dead as his first official act as mayor, Ford put forward his own subways-heavy transit plan for council approval. But he failed to garner council support and the plan was defeated in February 2012, with council largely backing a return to most of the original plan.

Plastic bags banned: Ford decided he wanted to end a mandatory five-cent fee for plastic shopping bags in 2010, a plan that spectacularly backfired when council actually voted to ban plastic bags when it came to a vote in 2012. Council later abandoned the ban on bags.

Land transfer tax: Ford vowed to scrap the land transfer tax on home purchases, which brings in hundreds of millions in city revenues annually. But after finding a lack of support on council, Ford later changed that promise to reducing the tax by at least 10 per cent. He was never able to scrap or reduce the tax, which remains in place.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ROB FORD: 1969—2016

The political phenomenon

VOTING

Man without college degree took over T.O. city hall

For all his bad — which was numerous — Rob Ford left us with enough good to comfort his boosters.

Unique doesn't begin to describe the astonishing, incomprehensible, indecipherable, head-scratcher of a politician. Gaffes and impolitic indiscretions that would sink mere mortals seemed to conspire to elevate his status.

This is a man, without a college degree, who by most calculations, would be hard-pressed to ascend to the executive offices of the city's boardrooms; and yet, mayor of the country's largest city.

And for four years, the most (in)famous mayor in all the world.

Rarely has Toronto's name been on the lips of so many for so long and in so many far reaches of the world.

Wherever political scientists study voting phenomenon, they'll be stretched to explain how a young man from central-north Etobicoke — a simple man trading on the means of his politician-turned-businessman father — could parlay such limited recognizable skills into securing the votes of so many of the most fickle of customers.

> **You can trust me with your money. I'm not going to waste it.**
> Rob Ford

Rob Ford seemed always to defy the odds. He seemed to live by his own rules. Exploding grenades propelled him into the air, they didn't shatter his facade. The more he sunk into the morass of personal excess — the alcohol and drugs — the more entrenched, though narrowed, his appeal.

He called black voters by the most vile smears and many of the targeted defended him with vigour. He relished in his efforts to cut and contain spending — money needed to fix up social housing — yet would go on scripted trips into broken down social housing units to show how much he cared about the beleaguered residents.

If he was a one-trick pony, the crowd at the carnival seemed mesmerized every time. In more than 15 years of municipal politics, Ford never lost an election. His singular appeal was his message that never grew old and never lost appeal:

"You can trust me with your money. I'm not going to waste it."

When Ford raised taxes, his subjects shrugged. Must have been unavoidable, they thought. If he blurred lines between public business and private pursuits, like his own charitable foundation or the interest of a corporation, his public detected no whiff of scandal, no scent of graft or greed. Such is the unassailable brand the politician carefully nurtured. He takes it to the grave, intact.

Ford's genius — crafted or naturally acquired — is that he connected with the average guy.

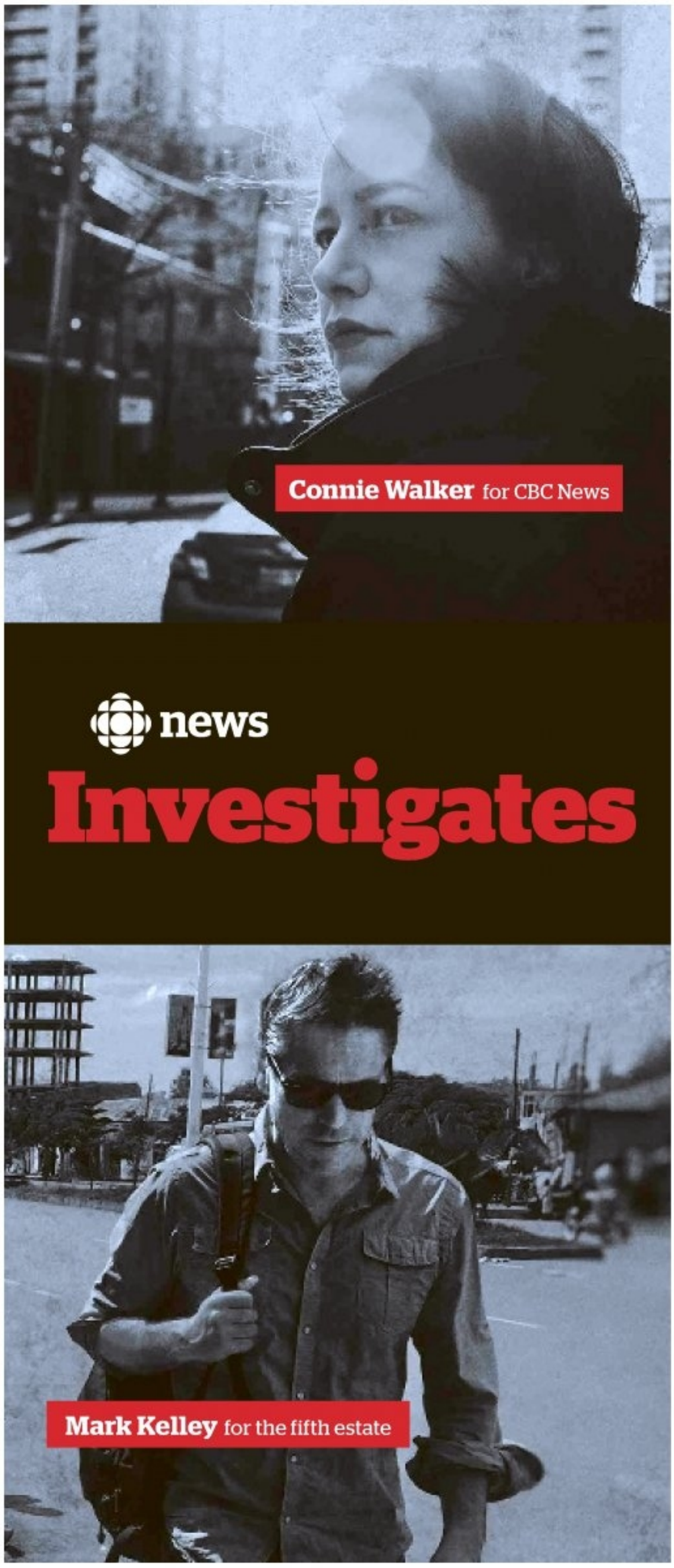
Bumbling, stumbling, a bit off-kilter, never well-dressed, rumpled, a bit awkward, politically incorrect, overweight, bumptious while shy, he represented the imperfections in all of us, even those of us who despised him for it.

His singular appeal as a politician was "customer service." He answered the phone calls of his constituents. Personally. He showed up to their door to attend to their little problems. And constituents never forgot that.

Rob Ford was Toronto's 64th mayor, the third after the controversial and forced amalgamation that created the megacity in 1998. He will not be forgotten any time soon.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rob Ford, whose scandal-plagued time in office made him an international celebrity. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CHRIS YOUNG



THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

Newly pledged money from the federal government will help clear up service delays and long lines for TTC riders, officials said Tuesday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Funds to speed up service: TTC

INFRASTRUCTURE

The estimated $880M can go to repairs, new transit cars

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Hundreds of millions of dollars — and a great big win — for Toronto.

That's the way Mayor John Tory summed up the federal budget Tuesday as the Liberals announced $11.9 billion in new infrastructure spending, with $3.4 billion to be spent directly on public transit over the next three years.

The money, which can be used for either repairs or new projects, will be allocated based on ridership — good news in a city where the transit service counts for 26 per cent of ridership nationwide.

It "will make a noticeable difference in the commute of all TTC customers," TTC chair Josh Colle said.

"The TTC has too many service delays due to aging infrastructure, and today's announcement is a substantial step in reversing this trend."

Where exactly an estimated $880 million in federal money will land in Toronto remains to be seen. However, the budget specifically mentioned "the purchase of new subway cars, low-floor buses and streetcars" by the TTC.

While certainly welcome, the federal money remains a drop in Toronto's increasingly large transit bucket.

> **This is truly a cities budget.**
> Mayor John Tory

Taken together, Tory's SmartTrack plan, the Waterfront East LRT and the Scarborough subway extension represent an estimated $12 billion in spending.

"I think you can always say we could have used more or could have used more faster," Tory said. "But we're getting transit money that's new investment that will allow us to get on with some of the repairs that we've had to postpone much longer than we should have."

MAPPED

TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS

Pedestrian traffic fatalities in 2016

1 Kennedy Road & Ellesmere Road
Sunday, Jan. 3 — A 39-year-old man was hit by an SUV and killed while crossing Kennedy Road, south of Ellesmere Road.

2 Bayview Avenue & Eglinton Avenue East
Friday, Jan. 15 — An 85-year-old woman was hit by a crossover SUV while crossing Bayview Avenue at Eglinton. She later died in hospital.

3 Sheppard Avenue East & Chichester Place
Sunday, Jan. 17 — A 79-year-old man was hit by a crossover SUV and killed while crossing Sheppard Avenue near Chichester Place.

4 Dundas Street West & Poplar Avenue
Thursday, Jan 28 — A 49-year-old woman was crossing Dundas Street West when she was hit by a left-turning private bus. She was taken to hospital and succumbed to her injuries on Feb. 2.

5 Dufferin Street & Armstrong Avenue
Saturday, Jan. 30 — A 90-year-old woman was hit by a car and killed while crossing Dufferin Street, south of Armstrong Avenue.

6 Wedgewood Drive & Tobruk Crescent
Wednesday Feb. 10 — An 84-year-old man was hit by a driver who jumped the sidewalk on Wedgewood Drive. The victim was taken to hospital and died Feb. 13.

7 Finch Avenue W & Tobermory Drive
Saturday Feb. 13 — A 72-year-old woman was hit and killed by a driver as she attempted to cross Finch Avenue.

8 Dawes Rd & Secord Ave
Thurs. Feb. 18 — A 74-year-old woman was hit by a right-turning van driver while crossing Secord Avenue at Dawes Road. She was taken to hospital, where she died Feb. 21.

9 MacDonnell Ave & Queen St West
Thurs. Feb. 18 — A 70-year-old man was killed after he reportedly fell on to the road and was hit by a TTC bus.

10 Queen & Jarvis
Fri. March 4 — A woman was hit by a dump truck and was pronounced dead before paramedics arrived on the scene. Police have not released further details.

NEW FATALITY
Suntract Rd & Gordon MacKay Rd

Tues. March 22 - A woman was struck by a truck and killed. Police say the incident occurred in a parking lot.

TEXT: METRO
GRAPHIC: ANDRES PLANA/METRO

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Balkissoon gives up Scarborough seat

MPP Bas Balkissoon is stepping down. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLITICS

Premier says byelection to be held within six months

Veteran Liberal MPP Bas Balkissoon has suddenly resigned his seat in the Ontario legislature, without explanation.

The announcement came from Premier Kathleen Wynne on a day Queen's Park was preoccupied by the untimely cancer death of former Toronto mayor Rob Ford.

"Today, Bas Balkissoon advised me of his resignation and that he is stepping down as the MPP for Scarborough-Rouge River, effective immediately," Wynne said in a statement that shed no light on the unexpected departure.

"A byelection will be called within the next six months."

Balkissoon, who could not immediately be reached for comment, was quickly deleted from the list of MPPs on the legislature's web site.

A staff member in his Scarborough constituency office seemed taken by surprise by the resignation, saying: "I have no idea (why). I'm in a bit of shock as well."

Balkissoon, a native of Trinidad, was first elected to the legislature in 2005.

Prior to serving as an MPP and deputy speaker of the legislature, as well as a parliamentary assistant to several cabinet ministers, Balkissoon was a prominent Toronto city councillor who was credited with blowing the whistle on the MFP computer-leasing scandal.

He also made news in 2012 when U.S. President Barack Obama attended his son Tony's wedding in Chicago, where he works as a lawyer and married Laura Jarrett, the daughter of one of Obama's advisers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLICE

Province updates carding regulations

Police must inform any citizens who voluntarily stop for them on the street that they have a right not to give any identifying information under new carding regulations finalized Tuesday by the province.

Community Safety Minister Yasir Naqvi announced that additional protection — along with the appointment of an independent reviewer — following consultations held since draft rules to clamp down on controversial practice of racially biased street checks were released in October.

The new rules take effect Jan. 1, with the province developing a program to instruct police officers this spring and training to be conducted through the summer and fall at the expense of local police services.

Police services must also keep statistics on all attempted and completed street checks by age, race and gender and provide details in their annual reports. "The regulation makes it very clear that police officers cannot attempt to collect your identifying information simply based on the way you look or the neighbourhood you live in," Naqvi told reporters.

Under the regulations, police must also provide citizens with a reason why they are requesting identifying information. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

REAL ESTATE

Black's home sold for much less than asking price

Conrad Black's Bridle Path mansion apparently sold for $5 million less than its estimated value.

According to a posting on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) website, the home, which rests on 6.6 acres of property, was sold to an undisclosed buyer for $16.5 million — far less than the listed $21.8-million price tag. Bidders were told an auction had been cancelled a when pre-emptive offer came in.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

Mourning with adopted city

PRIDE ABROAD

Torontonian lauds Brussels' strength in face of tragedy

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

A Torontonian living in Brussels says the city is feeling "anger and sadness in equal measure" after a pair of terror attacks rocked the Belgian capital Tuesday.

Dylan White was on his way out the door, en route to the Brussels airport, Tuesday morning when he got a text from a friend.

"They told me to stay at home and turn on the news," he said. "And that's where I've been all day, just checking Twitter and listening to the sirens go by."

At least 34 people have been confirmed dead and another 170 wounded in apparent suicide bomb attacks at the airport and Maelbeek metro station. Daesh has since claimed responsibility.

A man looks at flowers and messages set up outside the stock exchange in Brussels. (AP PHOTO/GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT) **INSET: Dylan White moved to Brussels** from Toronto two and a half years ago. He was on his way to the airport when he learned of Tuesday's terror attacks. CONTRIBUTED

If White's flight – a planned vacation to meet his sister in Thailand – had been even a few hours earlier, he could have been among the victims.

"It's been a strange day," he said.

White, 27, moved to Brussels two and half years ago as part of his career in international relations. He said the city has been on edge ever since the Paris terror attacks in November – which authorities believed were planned in the heavily Muslim neighbourhood of Molenbeek in Brussels.

"Any time you're in a crowded public place, there is a sense of danger," White said. "There is a sense among people here that it was only a matter of time until something like this happened."

That said, White hopes his fellow Canadians back home don't get the wrong impression of Brussels. It's not a place ruled by fear or suspicion, he said, but rather "a quirky, fun and charming city."

Belgian authorities have asked residents to remain in their homes and shut down much of the transit in and around the capital.

Despite the tense climate, White said he has no plans to change how he lives in his adopted city.

"I'm still more likely to have died in a car crash on my way to the airport than in a terrorist attack here," he said. "I think insofar as possible, you have to try to continue to live a normal a life."

White's feelings were echoed by Aaron Peck, a Canadian writer and teacher who splits his time between Vancouver and Brussels.

"Despite the tragic and sad events today, I love Brussels," Peck said in an email to Metro. "It's a resilient city full of character – in many ways because of its diversity."

Peck is hoping Brussels doesn't see the same anti-Muslim backlash that occurred in France after the Paris attacks.

"Xenophobia and racism only make problems worse," he said.

SOLIDARITY

Belgians 'won't be cowards'

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

For Belgians living in Toronto, Tuesday's attack in Brussels left a sense of disgust and repulsion rather than fear and despair.

"It's very sad and frustrating that events like this continue to occur," said Andre van der Heyden, vice-president of the Belgian Canadian Business Chamber. "It's regrettable."

He was among those who gathered at Nathan Phillips Square on Tuesday night, lighting candles and offering comfort to one another. In a sign of solidarity, the CN Tower was lighted in black, yellow and red, the colours of the Belgian national flag. Despite the loss of life in Brussels, Heyden said terrorists will not force Belgians into a state of fear.

"We won't be cowards. We are a resilient and brave people, and ... unity makes strength."

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THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

Mom of 4 praises benefit

CHILD CARE

Anti-poverty group says more details are needed

Toronto single mother Ava Williams was in shock when she learned Tuesday's budget could mean an additional $4,000 a year for her four children.

"Honestly, I'd have to see it first to believe it," said Williams, 33, whose children range in age from 6 to 17.

Under the Trudeau government's new streamlined Canada Child Benefit, families with children under age 6 will receive an annual tax-free benefit of up to $6,400 per child and those with children between the ages of 6 and 17 will receive up to $5,400.

Families with annual net incomes below $30,000 will receive the maximum payment.

"My son is starting college in September. I've saved up for tuition. But maybe I could use the money for books. Or something else he might need," Williams said.

"And then there is Grade 8 graduation for my daughter next year — and you know how girls are. Or maybe we could look at moving into a better place," she added.

Williams has relied on social assistance, child benefits and various part-time jobs since 2007 when she left an abusive relationship and went back to school to earn a diploma in social work.

Next week, she starts a full-time job in a residential care facility for adolescent boys in trouble with the law, where she will be earning about $40,000 — or about $32,000 after taxes.

Single mom Ava Williams with three of her four kids, Dianne, 12, Devah, 8, in blue, and Zariah, 6, in pink. Ava also has a 17 year old son not in the photo. She is looking forward to learning how the federal budget will change the child benefit to help her four children. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **This is a historic step forward in the battle against child poverty in Canada.** Anita Khanna

Finance Minister Bill Morneau said the measure delivers on the Liberal government's promise to help parents with the high cost of raising children.

"The Canada Child Benefit is the most significant social policy innovation in a generation. It will lift hundreds of thousands of kids up from poverty," he said Tuesday in his speech to the Commons.

Anti-poverty groups praised the measure, but warned they would oppose any attempt by provinces to claw-back the payment from families on social assistance.

"This is a historic step forward in the battle against child poverty in Canada that is long overdue and long called-for by Campaign 2000 and other groups," said Anita Khanna, national co-ordinator of Campaign 2000.

"But we're very keen to understand the details of the delivery to ensure the money goes to the children and families who are most in need — those on social assistance," she added.

The new program, coming into effect July 1, rolls four former benefits — including the Universal Child Care Benefit and the income-splitting scheme for two-parent households the Conservatives brought in last year — into a single monthly payment.

It comes with a net cost of $22.4 billion over five years.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Grits pledge $8.4B

When Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government unveiled what was billed as a "historic" $8.4 billion investment in Canada's First Nations communities on Tuesday, one question leapt to Jackie Szkoda's mind: Will it be enough?

But Szkoda, a 55-year-old Shawnee woman originally from the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, 35 km northeast of Sarnia, Ont., said even that sum may not be sufficient to solve problems facing indigenous communities.

"I think it's great that they're putting more money into our issues," said Szkoda, who works at the Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre.

The 2016 federal budget commits the unprecedented amount of funding — spread out over five years — towards improving the socio-economic conditions of indigenous communities.

The money is designed to tackle everything from safe drinking water and housing to waste management and the over-representation of aboriginal peoples in the criminal justice system. THE CANADIAN PRESS

National Chief Perry Bellegarde. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THE 2016 FEDERAL BUDGET

Trudeau Liberals make it rain

Child benefit, native welfare cornerstones of huge spend

Justin Trudeau's Liberals are opting to spend heavily in their first budget to deliver the "bold, transformative" change they say is needed to put Canadians on firm footing for the future.

The Liberal budget unveiled Tuesday calls for new spending in the billions of dollars for aboriginal communities, middle-class families, transit upgrades and social housing in cities and towns across Canada. It provides more cash for children and their parents, poor seniors, unemployed Canadians and injured veterans.

For all that, Canada's finances will go deep into the red for the next five years as Liberals set aside election pledges to contain deficit spending.

Instead, the government said it will take advantage of low interest rates to borrow money and spend nearly $30 billion more this year than it takes in as revenue.

The Liberals had vowed to keep the deficit to no more than $10 billion and to eliminate it by the end of their mandate. Tuesday's budget predicts a deficit of $14.3 billion in 2020-21.

The plan unveiled by Finance Minister Bill Morneau doesn't set out how or when the books will be balanced, although he told reporters if growth is better than forecast, the country could be back in the black in five years.

"Some (projects) are urgently needed and require the government to act quickly. But in every case, investments will be made with a focus on long-term value so that Canadians will reap the benefits far into the future," Morneau said in the House of Commons.

He stressed the Liberals' priority was to grow the middle class — the title he gave to the 269-page document.

He told the Commons that the Liberal plan — which will see the deficit grow to $29.4 billion in 2016-17 — is "reasonable and affordable."

At the core of the Liberal strategy is the Canada Child Benefit, some $5 billion in new spending a year that Morneau boasted was a social program to rival universal health care.

"It will lift hundreds of thousands of kids up from poverty," Morneau said.

Morneau did not deliver a promised small-business two percentage point tax cut.

Morneau also declared he was "most proud" of the new investment in indigenous communities, saying the more than $8 billion pledged over five years for education, nursing stations, housing and sewer and water treatment is more than the $5 billion promised by a previous Liberal government's Kelowna Accord in 2005. The Conservative government cancelled that agreement.

The defence department will see its capital spending deferred as the budget delays $3.7 billion for big-ticket capital projects, confirmation that new military hardware remains years away.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

2016-17 DEFICIT

$29.4 billion

Bill Morneau, right, with Justin Trudeau as he makes his way to deliver the budget. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Historic building boom yet to arrive

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

If you were expecting Tuesday's federal budget to usher in a new golden age of infrastructure in Canada, you're going to have to wait a little longer, experts say.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau began his budget speech by referencing the post-war construction boom in Canada that saw massive projects like the Trans-Canada Highway and St. Lawrence Seaway built.

However, the actual vision presented in budget is less grandiose.

The Liberals campaigned on investing $60 billion in infrastructure over 10 years. The "first phase" of that plan only includes $11.9 billion over five years.

"I think it's a down payment on the infrastructure needs of our cities," said University of Toronto planning professor Matti Siemiatycki.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities estimates that national infrastructure backlog tips the scales at $123 billion.

Siemiatycki applauded the decision to allow federal money to be spent on maintenance, rather than just new projects.

"We need to emphasize getting our house in order. Getting our existing infrastructure up to a state of good repair is a good place to start," he said.

BIG-CITY MAYORS FEELING THE LOVE

It's a very positive signal ... that they understand that there are a number of municipalities that don't have the full financial capacity to pay for all these projects.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson

It's pretty clear that there's a lot of needs at the municipal level and we're very encouraged by what we see in the budget.

Halifax Mayor Mike Savage

I'm very pleased to hear there is ... investment in infrastructure as well as investments in indigenous communities and for indigenous Canadians.

Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman

I've been saying for some time the best thing governments can do in this economic downturn is to keep building.

Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi

I think the investments in infrastructure in cities are significant and the signals are there that they're going to grow over time.

Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson

It's a good down payment on many fronts. It shows their commitment to supporting cities.

Vancouver's Gregor Robertson

TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

TERMINOLOGY

Terrorist organization will be referred to as 'Daesh'

Starting today, Metro will refer to terrorist organization ISIS or ISIL by the title Daesh: In long-form Arabic, al-Dawla al-Islamiya fi al-Iraq wa al-Sham.

Daesh itself has abandoned the shortened term because it is too close to the Arabic words that mean "one who crushes underfoot," or "sowers of discord." It's also similar to the word for bigot. Those translations are much closer to the truth, and have the added benefit that "Daesh" insults, rather than flatters, the group. METRO

'In this time of tragedy'

BELGIUM ATTACKS

At least 34 dead after two explosions in airport, subway

Islamic extremists struck Tuesday in the heart of Europe, killing at least 34 people and wounding scores of others in back–to–back bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that again laid bare the continent's vulnerability to suicide squads.

Bloodied and dazed travellers staggered from the airport after two explosions — at least one blamed on a suicide attacker and another reportedly on a suitcase bomb — tore through crowds checking in for morning flights. About 40 minutes later, another blast struck subway commuters in central Brussels near the Maelbeek station, which sits amid the European Commission headquarters.

Authorities released a photo taken from closed-circuit TV footage of three men pushing luggage carts, saying two of them apparently were the suicide bombers and that the third — dressed in a light-colored coat, black hat and glasses — was at large. The two men believed to be the suicide attackers apparently were wearing dark gloves on their left hands.

In its claim of responsibility, the Daesh group said its members detonated suicide vests both at the airport and in the subway.

Belgium raised its terror alert to the highest level, shut the airport through Wednesday and ordered a citywide lockdown, deploying about 500 soldiers onto Brussels' largely empty streets to bolster police checkpoints.

In police raids across Brussels, authorities later found a nail-filled bomb, chemical products and a Daesh flag in a house in the Schaerbeek neighbourhood, the state prosecutors' office said in a statement.

German police say three Kosovars who are suspected of possible links to an extremist network have been arrested on the Munich-Salzburg highway in the south of the country. However, the criminal police office said that there are no indications at this point of any link with the attacks.

"In this time of tragedy, this black moment for our country, I appeal to everyone to remain calm but also to show solidarity," said Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel.

President Barack Obama has ordered that all American flags in the U.S. be flown at half-staff through Saturday out of respect.

Daesh has issued an updated communiqué taking credit for the Brussels attacks and threatening other countries taking part in the anti-Daesh coalition. The statement promises "dark days" for countries allied against them, threatening that "what is coming is worse and more bitter."

The communiqué was published in Arabic and French, and an English translation was provide by the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi websites. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TESTIMONY

Canadian tourists' reactions

Quebec actress Salome Corbo was checking in at the Air Canada counter when the first blast rocked Brussels' airport in Tuesday's terror attacks that killed dozens in the Belgian capital.

In the ensuing chaos as she fled, Corbo says she came close to where the second explosion went off.

"It was very spectacular," she told Cogeco Nouvelles. "I was right near the second blast. I heard the first one, quickly tried to get away and the second one was nearby, right near me. I've had this buzzing in my ear I can't get rid of."

Corbo, one of many Canadians caught up in the maelstrom, said she immediately realized it was a terrorist attack.

Ottawa native Thorfinn Stainforth said he was in a taxi approaching the terminal when his driver got a message from a dispatcher advising of a bomb alert at the airport. They kept going, but then emergency crews began arriving in droves and they pulled over as traffic snarled.

"We didn't see any smoke, we didn't see any panicked people, we just saw a lot of security cars and people everywhere," said Stainforth.

"If we had been probably 10 minutes earlier we would have been exactly where the bombing was."

Canadian Michelle Betz, who flew in to the airport about an hour before the first bombing there, said she passed Maelbeek in a cab en route to her hotel.

"So just missed that one as well, thank goodness," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BELGIUM MOBILIZES

1 **High security measures**— Police forces make searches inside the North station in Brussels.

2 **Suspects' photos released**— A picture released by the Belgian federal police shows the suspects.

3 **Videos surface** — This image grab from a video by RTL TVI shows people lying on the floor after the blast.

LL PHOTOS: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ZAVENTEM BOMBING

Witnesses describe blood, dust, chaos in airport

More than two dozen people were killed Tuesday when bombs exploded in Belgium's capital — two at the main international airport and one on a downtown subway train near European Union headquarters.

Witnesses described chaotic scenes of blood, dust and flying glass as the blasts hit transport hubs in the middle of a busy rush hour. Here are some of their accounts:

Entrepreneur Marc Noel, 63, was awaiting a flight from Brussels to Atlanta when he decided to buy some automobile magazines for the flight — an act he thinks may have saved his life.

He was in an airport shop when the first explosion struck about 45 metres away, bringing down a chunk of the ceiling.

"People were crying, shouting, children. It was a horrible experience," said Noel, a Belgian who lives in Raleigh, North Carolina. "I don't want to think about it, but I would probably have been in that place when the bomb went off."

He said a second blast hit 10 to 15 seconds later.

"This feel likes war — fire engines, police everywhere," said Noel, as he and hundreds of other passengers toting their hand luggage were evacuated to the town of Zaventem.

"I was as close as I could be to the other side," he told the AP. "It hasn't happened yet. I guess it's not my hour."

Georgian journalist Ketevan Kardava was lining up for a flight to Geneva just after 8 a.m. when, she said, something black and suitcase-shaped exploded in front of the Delta Air Lines counter nearby. She said the glass walls shattered and smoke filled the air.

"Everything was broken," she said. "We were crying, shouting, running we didn't know where."

Journalist Ketevan Kardava was in an airport line during the attack. TWITTER.COM

Minutes later, amid the chaos, a second explosion sounded, she said. By then, chaos had enveloped the terminal building and she could see very little.

Anthony Deloos, who works for check-in and baggage services firm Swissport, said the first blast hit near a counter where passengers pay for overweight luggage.

"Twenty meters from us we heard a big explosion," he said. "It's like when you're in a party and suddenly your hearing go out, from like a big noise." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

Fear is part of life in Europe

ALERT

Cities spared violence so far watching in trepidation

Paris, Copenhagen, Brussels. In just over a year three European capitals have been ravaged by bombs and gunfire.

After each attack life slowly returns to normal. But it's a new normal for Europe, where terror alerts are always on high and where people in cities so far spared major violence assume it's a matter of when, not if.

"With each atrocity that occurs we change," said Ian Duncan, a Scottish member of the European Parliament in Brussels. "We become less open. We pull down barriers and close doors. But it is a direction we are following now."

The carnage in Brussels on Tuesday came as Europe was still reeling from the November attacks in Paris that killed 130 people. In the following months France and Belgium have looked like countries at least partially at war, with soldiers in the streets, lockdowns and deadly shootouts with militants.

A Belgian soldier patrols outside Brussels Central Station as people are allowed in groups of ten to reach the station to catch their commuter train following attacks in Brussels. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The rest of Europe has watched with trepidation.

"These were attacks in Belgium. They could just as well be attacks in Britain or France or Germany or elsewhere in Europe," British Prime Minister David Cameron told the BBC on Tuesday.

French President Francois Hollande said the attacks targeted all of Europe and he warned of a long "war" ahead.

Though people in Western Europe have dealt with the threat of violence for decades, the idea that a "war" is playing out in their streets is hard to imagine. But the recent frequency and scale of attacks have made some Europeans feel that it's just something they have to get used to.

In Moscow, security has been tightened notably at everyday locations in the wake of a series of attacks in the past 15 years. There are metal detectors at the entrances to all subway stations, all passenger rail stations do luggage scans, most indoor shopping centres have metal detectors and glowering guards. Airports do luggage scans at the entrance.

In Western Europe people are more reluctant to trade civil liberties and an open society for more security. But after each attack that equation changes, said Catherine Muller, of the Institute of Development Studies in Brighton, England.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED STATES

Copycat attacks expected

The Obama administration stepped up security at major transit hubs across the country after Tuesday's airport and subway bombings in Brussels, as top U.S. intelligence officials warned of the risk for copycat attacks at home. President Barack Obama vowed to help Belgium track down those responsible for the deadly explosions.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson stressed there is no "specific, credible intelligence" pointing to a similar plot in America, but he said the Transportation Security Administration would deploy additional security at major airports and rail stations in different cities.

Officials also reviewed additional security measures for travellers from Belgium, among more than three dozen countries whose citizens generally don't need a visa to enter the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEFIANCE

Display of solidarity in chalk

A pedestrian strip outside the stock exchange in Brussels became a colourful canvas of support and defiance after Tuesday's deadly bombings as those wanting to show solidarity chalked messages — in French, Flemish, English, Arabic and Cyrillic script and more.

A few thousand people were gathered at Brussels' Place de la Bourse late Tuesday to draw more messages and light candles. One group broke into Edith Piaf's "Hymne a L'amour" (Hymn to Love) as onlookers applauded. Next, they sang the Belgian national anthem, in both French and Flemish.

Many of the drawings were joyous, with slogans like "Spread love," "Live and Let Live" and "Love is my religion." Others were more political: "Stop this war in Syria," or simply raw — one small message read: "I'm scared."

The vibe was generally upbeat, with laughing and joking, but there was an strong undercurrent of sadness.

Pepijn Kennis, 27, had tears in his eyes as he and his girlfriend drew the words "Hart Bove Haat" (Heart over Hate) in pink and yellow chalk in front of the Bourse.

Kennis said he was distraught by the sight of soldiers and heavy weaponry now commonplace across the Belgian capital. "The minute we put soldiers in the street, they've won," he said.

Solidarity messages outside the stock exchange in Brussels.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At the centre of the square, a memorial was improvised out of flags, tea lights, balloons, flowers and — because this is Belgium — beer bottles.

Karien Fouwels was gently scolding her daughter Chiraz as they lit a candle for the vigil.

"It's important for us to be here," she told her daughter as the latter complained that there were "no kids around."

Fouwels, a 47-year-old account director, smiled warmly when asked why she came.

"Our whole life is in this city," said Fouwels, a Brussels native. She said she dragged her 13-year-old out to show her that "we can't stop living just because of some monstrous idiots who are driven by ideology. That's why we bring coffee to soldiers. Why we bring flowers to vigils. Again and again."

"It has to be a lesson for my little girl," she said, as her now-mollified daughter leaned against her. "That she learns ... never to be scared."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, March 23, 2016

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD **A VERY BIG NEWS DAY**

WHEN OUR PURPOSE IS CLEAR

Sometimes, when a major story breaks, and then another major story breaks, and then a few medium-sized stories break — and all this happens before a long-scheduled announcement, which everyone thought would be the day's main story, is formally released — journalists are able to temporarily set aside their competitiveness and existential angst. For once, we're not trying to scoop each other and justify our existence. **We know what needs doing — we just need to do it**

The day began with the terrorist bombing in Brussels. A phone alarm ringing, the CNN breaking-news alert flashed red across the screen. At least 26 dead in two attacks (it would rise to 30), and many more injured.

The American network mocked for overplaying its breaking-news banner wasn't upselling this.

In the news business, it would be a big day. The kind of day where journalists around the world wrestle with one story, seek to make sense of one globally reverberating event. In their own ways, from their own perch on the world. Walking into work, you could imagine reporters in hundreds of cities, most especially in Europe, pushing open newsroom doors with the same questions on their mind: What happened in Brussels, how and why, and what will happen next? And how do we cover it?

How do we tell people what is going on?

Live-feeds began rolling: piecemeal and conflicting reports that slowly coalesced into a truer picture. Journalists hugged the bombing sites, reporting any and all details. One Sky News reporter was at the airport buying chocolate for his children, so close to the explosion that he could not only hear, but feel the blasts. "There was the smell — the sort of acrid smell of smoke. Instinctively we knew it was a terrorist attack. I didn't think it could be anything else," he later wrote.

It's in the wake of huge, emotionally charged stories like yesterday's violence in Brussels that the media most resembles the indispensable information commons that it purports to be. TWITTER

Then, by midday, Rob Ford's family had announced the popular-yet-detested, controversial-yet-engrossing, outsized-in-so-many-ways former mayor had died after fighting the rare and aggressive form of cancer, pleomorphic liposarcoma.

Condolences from adversaries and friends flooded social media and were plucked by reporters to fill news-story soundbites. Colourful obituaries, the only kind imaginable for Ford, shot up on websites. Breaking-news specials, recorded in advanced, co-opted national networks.

Rob Ford: 1969-2016.

Twitter says some were celebrating the death, but I never saw it. I saw photos of lineups at city hall, where mourners waited to sign a condolence book. My colleague Jessica Smith Cross, at the scene, found supporters "already missing Ford," who had come to remember "the people's mayor."

The Toronto Star, vilified by Ford during his tenure, used soft language to report his death and encapsulate his impact on city politics. On national politics, really. Meanwhile, the family that managed to stay so out-of-the-headlines even while Ford was all the world could talk about, asked for privacy from the media.

They had lost a father/brother/son/uncle, after all. While the rest of us had only lost an avatar.

Across Toronto, there was again the feeling of reporters — on death watch since news on Thursday that Ford was in palliative care — collectively breathing in, and publishing the best take they had on Ford's legacy.

How were his passionate, hyper-loyal acolytes — Ford Nation — handling the news? What did his loss mean to them? Would they ever coalescence around a voice like that again? And are there other Rob Fords, in other Canadians cities, ready to upend politics-as-usual and unearth a hitherto silent but angry constituency?

Then: "F–k!" a colleague yelled, pushing back from his desk. "We have a pedestrian death, on top of everything."

By "everything," he also meant the much-anticipated federal budget, which, at around 4 p.m., pushed through many of the Liberals' campaign promises, billions on infrastructure, indigenous peoples and child care, along with something that wasn't promised: a much deeper deficit.

"Is the new Canada Child Benefit fair," one reporter tweeted, with a link to analysis, in one of hundreds of niche headlines to emerge. After the minister of finance finished his speech, premiers and mayors walked up to podiums to pronounce on their pet interests wrapped up in the $300-billion budget, and the news cycle whirled on.

The day was a microcosm for our super-speed world, a tight 24 hours of information overload. "This might be the most newsy day of my entire career as a journalist," a desk mate quipped.

It was also the kind of day that feels worth it. When journalists aren't tolerated — they are needed. Something important has happened (or many things). People want to know what, exactly. People need the context. They need the news.

This is journalism's job. This was one of journalism's days. A day that saw less a competition among media outlets, than a collective effort to give our societies the desired facts: those essential building blocks of understanding, and agency.

Tuesday was the kind of day that feels worth it. When journalists aren't tolerated — they are needed. People need the context. They need the news.

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metro LIFE
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Budget delivers artists a break

The Liberals are investing more than $1.9 billion in arts and culture over the next five years. Beyond an additional $575 million in cultural infrastructure funding (for museums and heritage sites), the budget allocates money to bodies that distribute grants and commission work. It's good news for young artists. MEGAN HAYNES/METRO

MACKENZIE DONALDSON FILMMAKER

Canadian cinema relies almost exclusively on grants and organizations like Telefilm or the Independent Production Fund for financing. But it can be hard for filmmakers to get in on the action. Mackenzie Donaldson, 28, personally financed her first two short films.

It wasn't until she came on board in 2014 to produce the critically acclaimed web series Whatever, Linda, which follows secretaries running a Ponzi scheme in the 1970s, that she was able to access any third-party financing. Her next project, a feature-length film based on a Susan Swan novel, just received funding from Telefilm.

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

"That money just makes it so much easier to carve out the time (to work on the film), pay our writers. Now this project has a future," says Mackenzie, of Toronto. "Competition (for funding) is fierce, but raising up the young producers and filmmakers in this country is vital for the future of Canadian cinema. It's hugely important that money exists."

JENNIFER CRIGHTON ARTIST

Calgary-based Jennifer Crighton, 35, isn't a starving artist. But she's not exactly rolling in the dough. The musician and visual artist has a salaried job with the Calgary International Film Festival, but her art shows only pay $200 (which is not a lot considering how much work goes into creating her art), and music gigs inconsistently pay anywhere from $50 to $400.

KENNETH APPLEBY/METRO

But more funding at the federal level isn't necessarily going to change things, she says. Grants, one of the more common ways artist can access federal money, are difficult to get. What's more, the funds usually only pay for the artistic project itself, leaving little to line the creators' pockets.

"It's hard to make good work if you're worried about paying for it," she says. "The best way to make sure you're getting good work is to guarantee the artists' fees first."

KEATON LEIER DANCER

Keaton Leier, a 19-year-old from Saskatoon, is in his final year of training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and looking for his next opportunity on the stage. He plans to pursue a career as a ballet dancer — a daunting task considering the limited spots in Canada or around the world. It's also not a particularly lucrative career. The majority of professional dancers earn less than $50,000, and that varies by company and position.

Training is expensive: the seven-year program costs more than $154,000.

COURTESY STANISLAV BALYAEVSKY

Leier has received some federally funded scholarships over the years, but roughly 50 per cent of his financing comes from private donors. Increased federal funding could provide a sense of stability, he says, since private donors don't have to recommit year-over-year.

Overall, Leier is grateful for whatever money flows through the arts. "I wouldn't be the same dancer I am now if it weren't for these scholarships," he says.

A BREAKDOWN OF NEW FUNDS

WHAT WAS PROMISED

The Liberal party promised to reinvest in the CBC to the tune of $75 million additional funding in 2016, and up to $150 million in annual funding by 2017.

The Liberal government promised to double the budget for the Canadian Council of the arts, which provides grants to artists and musicians across Canada. It promised $90 million in 2016, and then an additional $180 million by 2017.

The Liberals also said they would provide $10 million in funding for international arts and cultural exchange programs for 2016, and then an additional $25 million in funding in 2017 and 2018.

During the campaign both Telefilm and the National Film Board, which fund Canadian cinema, were promised an additional $25 million annually between the two organizations.

WHAT THEY DELIVERED

The CBC saw its promised $75 million for 2016, and another $150 million for each year after until 2021.

The CCA will receive $40 million in 2016, and an additional $75 million in 2017. It won't be until 2020 that it sees its budget doubled. While this is less than what was promised, Simon Brault, CEO and director of the CCA, said a priority will remain on increasing opportunities for youth and indigenous voices in the arts community.

There will be $10 million in the first year for international exchanges, and $25 million in 2017. A focus for the funding will be on the upcoming Canada 150 celebration.

Telefilm will receive an additional $22 million divided over the next five years with $2 million this year, while the NFB will receive $13.5 million, with $1.5 million in 2016.

DID THE BUDGET MEET EXPECTATIONS?

"It's really pleasing to see after so many years of funding cuts, you have a government willing to make an investment in cultural creation. Our hope is some of it will be earmarked for Canadian original independent productions with Canadian talent." Elliott Anderson, acting director of public policy research and communication, ACTRA

"The (CCA's) budget will be doubled. It will take five years, as opposed to two, but it means the Canada Council can align its strategic plan over the next five years with the reinvestment by the government. It's a great day for the arts."
Simon Brault, CEO and director, Canada Council for the Arts

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Debra Messing's diet cop show

THE SHOW: The Mysteries of Laura, Season 2, Episode 14 CTV/NBC
THE MOMENT: The Mascara

Debra Messing, with curls cascading down her back, stars in a cop show as threatening as apple sauce. CONTRIBUTED

New York homicide detective Laura Diamond (Debra Messing) sits in a hospital waiting room with the wife of the Cuban ambassador, who fell ill on a diplomatic mission.

Though he's in surgery, his wife serenely applies makeup.

"When Jake was in surgery, I was a mess," Laura whispers to a colleague about her wise-cracking ex-husband, played by Josh Lucas.

"But she's so calm. Too calm!"

Laura continues thinking out loud: And she put on mascara — waterproof mascara. Because she's preparing to cry! Because she knows he's going to die! Because she and his surgeon are lovers! And they're going to kill him!

She rushes into the OR, gun raised. She's right about everything.

Oh, Laura, you adorable smarty-pants!

Earlier this week I wrote about another woman cop show, the British series Happy Valley.

You are the American cartoon version: Diet Cop. Cop Lite.

You're always sighing about your complicated life; a single mother, you work with your ex, whom you still love. (When you and he watch surveillance videos, you tussle cutely for the remote.)

Yet your curls cascade down your back like a hair model's and your flannel shirts are more precisely fitted than most Oscar gowns.

There are two kinds of cop shows, Laura: the cable kind, with tortured outcomes, where everyone is smarter than the audience; and yours, with simple (waterproof!) outcomes that make the audience feel smart along with you. You're as unthreatening as applesauce.

So the mystery of your popularity — why, it's no mystery at all.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Alice Vaughan (Mireille Enos, left) is LA's top private investigator. She stars alongside Elvy Yost, right, in Shonda Rhimes' latest series The Catch. CONTRIBUTED

In Shonda we trust

THE CATCH

How beloved Shonda Rhimes continuously cranks out hits

It's no secret that when it comes to successful Thursday-night dramas, producer, creator and writer extraordinaire Shonda Rhimes has the winning formula. ABC has dubbed Thursdays TGIT after her primetime lineup of shows — between Grey's Anatomy, Scandal and How to Get Away with Murder she's given viewers successful female characters and hired people of colour on a scale unlike any other. "Shonda just has a magic formula to make these shows that are beloved," says Mireille Enos, who debuts in ShondaLand's latest show, The Catch, on Thursday.

So what is that magic formula?

One part leading lady

Rhimes has always written (or taught her fellow showrunners to write) interesting and dynamic female characters. From the moment Ellen Pompeo walked the halls of Seattle Grace as Meredith Grey, she and the leading ladies who followed captivated a new wave of viewers with each debut. Now, the hospital on Grey's Anatomy is mostly run by females, Kerry Washington's Olivia Pope (seen below) has the ear of the president anytime she chooses, and Viola Davis's Annalise Keating is one of the most sought-after lawyers in the country. That trend continues with The Catch, as Enos's Alice Vaughan proves she's one of the best private investigators around.

Two parts newbies

Viewers have always entered ShondaLand shows through fresh eyes. Adding in characters who would naturally have to ask questions allows for quick world-building while never talking down to viewers, making them feel as though they're along for the ride. We're talking about the interns of Grey's Anatomy, new Gladiator recruit Quinn (Katie Lowes) on Scandal, and the Keating Five on How to Get Away with Murder. While The Catch features a little less of that concept, new hire Sophie (Elvy Yost) allows for the blanks to be filled in.

A sprinkle of hot men

The men on these series have always been more than arm candy. While some have come with muscles and dashing smiles, others have won over viewers' hearts with their ability to let down their emotional guard. The latest male to join the melee is The Catch's Benjamin Jones (Peter Krause). While his motives are unclear and he comes across as shady in the pilot, he quickly becomes an equal for Alice to tango with as the series continues to unfold.

A generous helping of diversity

While there's still a long way to go, it's series like these that have begun to finally change the whitewashing Hollywood has demonstrated for far too long. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Drink mixers

Trying to avoid excess calories when enjoying a drink? The classic gin and tonic is not the route to take.

PICK THIS

Gin and soda

Calories 151
Fat 0 g
Carbohydrates 0 g
Sugar 0 g

SKIP THIS

Gin and tonic

Calories 207
Fat 0 g
Carbohydrates 15 g
Sugar 14.3 g

HERE'S WHY

Equivalent in sugar to 7 Old Fashion Timbits

Club soda and tonic water are popular mixes for cocktails, and many of us assume that tonic water is similar to club soda in ingredients and nutrients. However, the bitter-tasting tonic water is more like other sugar-filled beverages, like pop. In fact, one glass of gin & tonic serves up as much sugar as seven Old Fashion Timbits in sugar. For a mix that's sugar-free, pick up club soda, which is just carbonated water. Bottoms up!

RECIPE

Spicy cold milk for hot Holi

This week Hindus celebrate Holi, the festival of colours most recognized worldwide by the sight of people throwing brightly coloured powders at each other. Thandai, a cold, spiced milk provides some relief to revellers when much of India is experiencing temperatures well past 30C.

Typically thandai contains "bhang," a form of cannabis, but we'll wait for the green light from Prime Minister Trudeau before we add that to the recipe. If you want a more legal buzz, try spiking it with vodka.

You can find melon seeds, more accurately the dried seeds of muskmelons, at Indian grocers under the name "magaz" or "char magaz" but if you can't find them, omit from the recipe.

Thandai is reminiscent of chai. KARON LUI/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Thandai

Makes 4 servings.

Ingredients:
- 1/2 cup ground almonds
- 1/4 cup water, plus more for thinning out drink
- 1 1/2 tsp black peppercorns
- 1 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 Tbsp fennel seeds
- 2 Tbsp white poppy seeds
- 8 green cardamom pods
- 3 Tbsp melon seeds
- 10 shelled pistachios
- 1 1/2 cup whole milk
- 5 Tbsp granulated sugar
- 1 small pinch saffron strands
- Rose petals, for garnish
- Ice

Directions:

1. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together ground almonds and water until a smooth paste forms. Set aside.

2. In a spice grinder, grind peppercorns, ginger, fennel seeds, poppy seeds, cardamom pods, melon seeds and pistachios into a fine powder. Set aside.

3. In a saucepan over medium heat, bring milk, sugar and saffron to a gentle simmer. Whisk until sugar has dissolved. Add ground spices and almond paste. Whisk until smooth. Strain with a fine mesh sieve if desired.

4. Pour into pitcher. Dilute with water to taste. Refrigerate till cold and serve over ice. Garnish with rose petals, if using. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FRENCH WINES

Vineyards hit by climate change

Climate change has pushed French wines into uncharted territory, and could force producers to relocate, or abandon the grapes that helped to make their vineyards famous, scientists said Monday.

Since 1980, growing conditions in northern climes such as Champagne and Burgundy, as well as in sun-drenched Bordeaux, have fundamentally changed the "harvest equation" that defined these storied regions, they reported in Nature Climate Change.

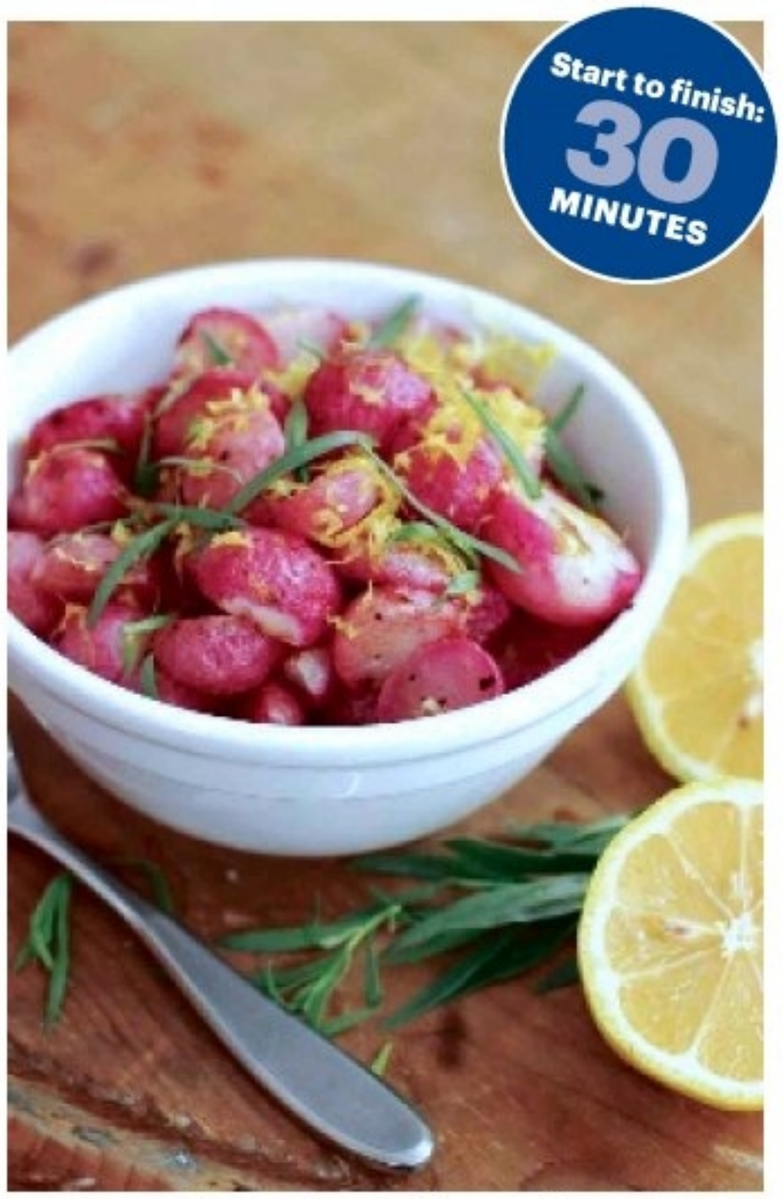
"For much of France, local climates have been relatively stable for hundreds or thousands of years," said Elizabeth Wolkovich, an assistant professor of evolutionary biology at Harvard University and co-author of the study.

"But that is shifting with climate change," she told AFP.

Many ingredients go into great winemaking: soil, grape variety, slope, exposure to the Sun, along with savoir faire in the vineyards and the cellar.

But exceptional vintages have historically also required an early harvest produced by abundant spring rains, hot summers, and a late-season drought.

Using meticulous records dating back to 1600, Wolkovich and Benjamin Cook, a climate scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in New York City and lead author of the study, and found harvest dates have moved up by two full weeks since 1980 compared to the average for the preceding 400 years. AFP



Lemon zest and tarragon leaves add a surprising spring zing to Butter Roasted Radishes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Radically delish roast radish dish

RECIPE

Sharp root veg takes on fresh spring taste that's perfect for Easter

Easter sides are depressingly predictable. There will be asparagus, of course. If you're lucky, there might even be three or four variations of asparagus. And there will be peas. And gratin potatoes. And probably some sort of salad that most people will only eat to be polite. Not that there's anything wrong with any of this.

It's just that it would be nice to offer something... different. So we'll help you with this one.

Try butter roasted radishes with tarragon and lemon. It's a simple dish that comes together in minutes, but has a wonderful flavour that is both rich and light and lemony — the perfect combination for spring.

Butter Roasted Radishes with Tarragon and Lemon

Servings: 6

Ingredients:
- 2 pounds radishes, halved
- 3 Tbsp butter, melted
- kosher salt and ground black pepper
- zest of 1 lemon
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh tarragon

Directions:

1. Heat the oven to 375 F.

2. Pile the radish halves in the centre of a rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle with the butter and toss to coat. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

3. Roast for 20 minutes, or until tender and lightly browned.

4. Arrange on a platter, then sprinkle with the lemon zest and tarragon.

5. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Nutritional info per serving:

80 calories; 50 calories from fat (63 per cent of total calories); 6 g fat (3.5 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 15 mg cholesterol; 220 mg sodium; 5 g carbohydrate; 2 g fibre; 3 g sugar; 1 g protein. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EASTER WINE

Chocolate bunny gets a sophisticated pairing

Easter is really the only time of the year I bite the bunny and purchase chocolate. And, I like to wash down my confections with a glass or two of vino.

When it comes to milk chocolate, something boozy or sweet or both make a great pairing. A tawny port or sweeter sherry share both qualities, while the nectar-like goodness of a dessert wine, like a French Sauternes, makes a decadent marriage.

For a more mainstream match try a white made with the Moscato grape and reds from Pinot Noir or old vines Zinfandel.

California's Meiomi 2013 Pinot Noir ($24.95 - $29.99) is a mouthful of rich, thick berry fruit with a creamy quality that not only charms chocolate, it's poultry and ham friendly, too if you can save any for Easter dinner.

PETER ROCKWELL/FOR METRO

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

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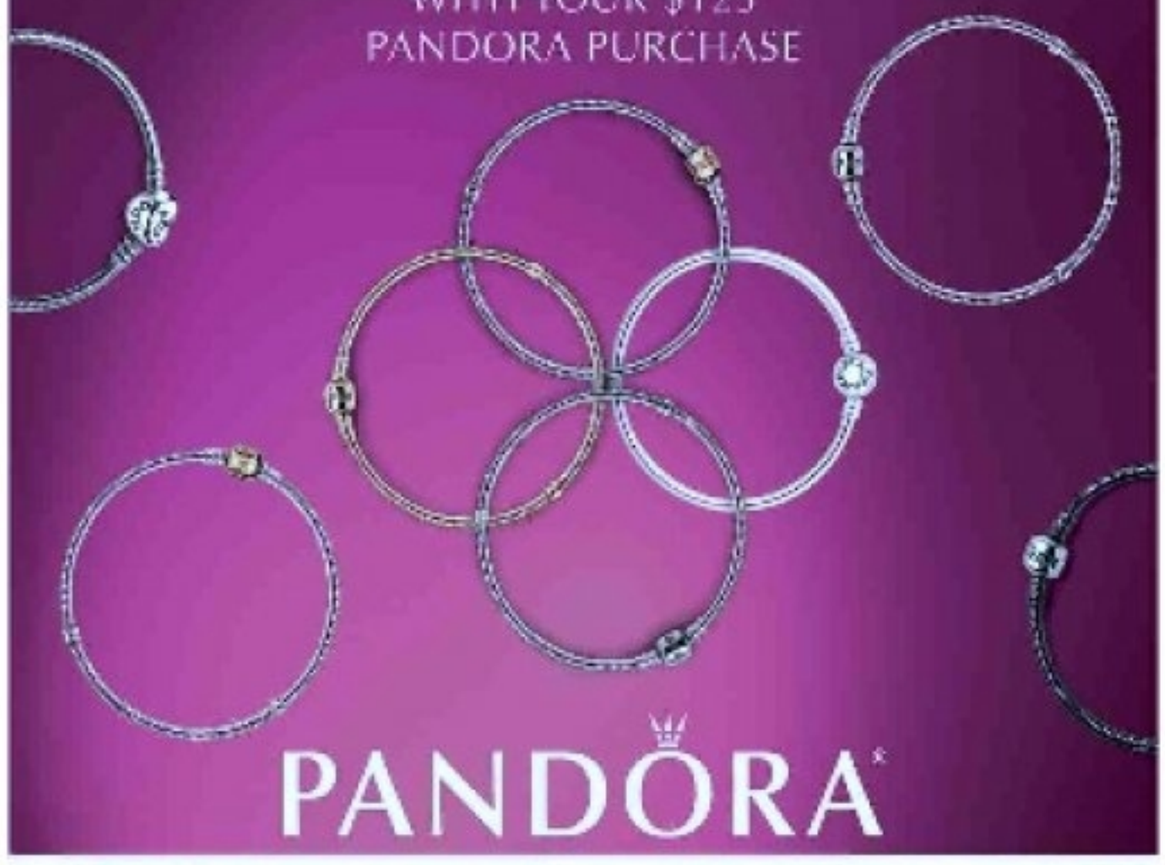

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RECIPE

SPIRALIZE NOW!: 80 DELICIOUS, HEALTHY RECIPES

A twist on turkey burgers

In this book are 80 inspiring recipes for the spiralizer. With a spiralizer you can create delicious and nutrient-packed spirals of fruit and vegetables.

Transform high-calorie home cooking into light "pasta" and much more made from fresh ingredients.

EXCERPT COURTESY OF SPIRALIZE NOW! 80 DELICIOUS, HEALTHY RECIPES FOR YOUR SPIRALIZER (OCTOPUS PUBLISHING GROUP LTD.) $25.99 CAN.

Moroccan Turkey Burgers

Ingredients for the burgers
- 1 large zucchini, ends trimmed and halved crosswise
- 1 lb (500 g) lean ground turkey or chicken breast
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2 tablespoons chopped mint
- 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
- 1 tablespoon harissa paste
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon sunflower oil, for brushing

For the sumac-yogurt dip
- 7 oz (200 g) plain Greek yogurt
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- Grated zest and juice of ½ organic lemon
- 1 tablespoon sumac
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Directions

1. Using a spiralizer fitted with a 3 mm (1⁄8 inch) spaghetti blade, spiralize the zucchini.
2. Place the ground turkey or chicken, green onions, garlic, mint, cilantro, harissa, cumin, egg, salt and pepper to taste in a large bowl and use your hands to mix the ingredients together.
3. Divide the mixture into 6 portions and shape into large patties.
4. Transfer the patties to a plate and chill in the refrigerator for 15 minutes. Preheat the broiler.
5. Place the patties on a non-stick baking sheet and brush the patties with a little oil.
6. Cook the patties under the broiler for 6–7 minutes on each side or until cooked through.
7. While the burgers are cooking, make the dip. Place the yogurt, garlic, lemon zest and juice, and sumac in a small bowl, mix together and season to taste.
8. Serve the burgers hot with the sumac-yogurt dip alongside.

FOOD BRIEFS

What's happening around Toronto's food scene

Openings: Indian chef Debu Saha has opened Debu's Underground Kitchen, a.k.a., Undergroundkitchen16 in the Crown and Tiger Bar at 414 College St. Dining hours are 3 to 9 p.m. with delivery available.

Events: Four years after opening Chantecler at 1320 Queen St. W., owner Jacob Wharton-Shuster has parted from Jonathon Poon (Bar Fancy) and reinvented the room as a French bistro, with frogs legs ($8) and duck a l'orange ($29) by chef Jesse Mutch (ex-Keriwa Cafe). Open Thursday to Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jacob Wharton-Shukster makes a smoked whisky at Chantecler. TORSTAR

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Your essential daily news
Dodge Challenger Earns 2016 TrueCar Pre-Owned Value Award

EV with a gas-fueled guardian angel

ROAD TESTED

REVIEW

New-gen Volt surprisingly simple to operate

Mike Goetz
For Metro Canada

The all-new Chevrolet Volt introduced for model-year 2016 is many kilometres better than its predecessor.

We can actually peg it to 20 kilometres better, as its potential all-electric kilometre range is now up to 80-ish, from 60-ish. Unlike other hybrids, the gas engine in the Volt is designed and designated as a "range extender" for the electric drivetrain. The gas engine is not directly engaged to the drive wheels. When the engine runs, it always turns a generator, which in turn sends electricity to the motor wheels directly, or to the battery, or both. In any scenario, the Volt is always being propelled by its electric motors.

It feels like Volt engineers went through much analysis and brain sweat, before deciding on the final size and power of the gas engine, battery pack, and electric motors, because each affects the other so much, and the resulting price point and electric performance of the eventual car.

Ultimately they came up with a 1.5-litre engine of "regular" sophistication that runs on regular gas, and an electric powertrain featuring an 18kWh battery pack with 192 cells, and two motors. The electric bits are considerably more powerful, and lighter, than their predecessors.

All this gives Volt noticeably more electric "jump" from a dead stop, and more electric range.

Combined with a body structure that is stronger and quieter, the combined effect is a Volt that is much more refined in feel and ride.

Volt can now seat five, instead of four, but the rear middle position is brutal. If you drew the short straw and end up there, you will be splaying your legs, to place one foot on either side of a tunnel, where part of the battery pack resides.

Up front it is decidedly better, with an all-new interface that does away with the previous car's irksome touchscreen.

Under electric mode the Volt is extremely quiet and quite powerful. The gas engine kicks in smoothly, but it doesn't add anything to the experience, acting as it is does on its own schedule, to keep supplying electrical juice. The main goodness of the Volt happens when it's operating in sole electric mode.

I had the Volt during a cold spell. I found myself constantly wondering how much of my limited electrical reserves to use for cabin heat, versus range. The combination of cold temps and lots of highway miles, meant my electric range for a full charge was nowhere near 80 kms.

But overall, the Volt is impressive. With its bigger EV range, many more drivers can go petroleum-free for commutes, and Volt still gives you the option of using it for longer trips — an easy and satisfying way to transition to EV culture.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 CHEVROLET VOLT

THE BASICS

Type. Five-door, FWD, compact hatchback
Power. 1.5-litre I4 with twin electric motors (149 combined hp)
Transmissions. One-speed electric automatic
Base price (not including PDI & Freight). $40,090

COOL FEATURES

- When charging preference set to "home," Volt automatically adjusts to that setting, when GPS data determines you are "home."
- Charge port pluses blue.
- Selectable "Mountain Mode" will leave battery reserves untouched, so you could use them at a better or later time.

VOLT PHOTOS MIKE GOETZ/FOR METRO; ALL OTHERS HANDOUT

POINTS

- Qualifies for Green Car rebates in B.C., Ontario, and Quebec.
- All-new, second-generation format for 2016 has increased EV range (up to 80 km)
- New styling is sharp, but with less emphasis on broadcasting itself as an EV.

MARKET POSITION

- First EV on the market to feature a "range extender" gasoline engine.
- Unlike other EVs, could easily work as a family's sole vehicle and/or for long trips.
- Targeted to those who are love the idea of an EV, but are prone to range anxiety.

THE COMPETITION

Nissan Leaf
Base price: $32,698

BMW i3
Base price: $45,300

Tesla Model X
Base price: $TBA

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Starting From Price for 2016 Ram 1500 Sport with Performance Hood shown: $42,135.‡

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AND GET LIMITED TIME $500 BONUS CASH OFFER!*

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OR CHOOSE 0% LEASING• FOR 24 MONTHS OR FINANCING† FOR 84 MONTHS ON MOST MODELS

Starting From Price for 2016 Jeep Cherokee Limited shown: $34,540.‡

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CANADA'S BEST-SELLING MINIVAN FOR MORE THAN 31 YEARS

LEASE FOR $238 MONTHLY➤ @ 2.99% FOR 36 MONTHS WITH $1,058 DOWN/$500 SECURITY DEPOSIT

OR CHOOSE 0% FINANCING† FOR 72 MONTHS ON MOST MODELS

STEP UP TO THE 2016 ULTIMATE FAMILY PACKAGE AND GET $10,850 IN TOTAL DISCOUNTS* INCLUDES $500 BONUS CASH OFFER!*

Starting From Price for 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown: $31,640.‡

2016 DODGE JOURNEY CANADA VALUE PACKAGE

CANADA'S FAVOURITE CROSSOVER^

LEASE FOR $248 MONTHLY‡ @ 3.49% FOR 48 MONTHS WITH $898 DOWN/$500 SECURITY DEPOSIT

OR CHOOSE 0% FINANCING† FOR 60 MONTHS ON MOST MODELS

STEP UP TO THE 2016 ULTIMATE FAMILY PACKAGE AND GET $6,200 IN TOTAL DISCOUNTS* INCLUDES $500 BONUS CASH OFFER!*

Starting From Price for 2016 Dodge Journey Crossroad shown: $32,140.‡

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Wise customers read the fine print: †, €, •, ➤, ∞, ❖, ♦, ‡, *, ^, ~, § The Power of Zero Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected in-stock new and unused models purchased/leased from participating retailers between March 18 and 31, 2016. Offers subject to change and may be extended or changed without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,745), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. †0% purchase financing for up to 84 months available on select new 2016 models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR)/2016 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4x4 (24A)/2016 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT (29E)/2016 Dodge Journey SXT (29E) with a Purchase Price of $29,868/$28,177/$27,735/$28,150 with a $998/$0/$998/$998 down payment, financed at 0% for 84/84/72/60 months equals 182/182/156/130 bi-weekly payments of $164/$155/$171/$209 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $29,868/$28,177/$27,735/$28,150. €$10,850 in Package Value available on the new 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT Ultimate Family Package model based on the following: $7,000 Consumer Cash Discount, $850 No Charge Uconnect Hands-Free Group, $2,500 Ultimate Family Package Savings and $500 Bonus Cash. $6,200 in Package Value available on the new 2016 Dodge Journey SXT Ultimate Family Package model based on the following MSRP options: $2,000 Consumer Cash, $2,500 DVD Bonus Cash, No-Cost Options of $1,200 and $500 Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. •$500 Bonus Cash is available on select new 2015/2016 Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram and FIAT models purchased at participating Ontario/Atlantic retailers between March 18 and 31, 2016 including the following: 2015/2016 Chrysler 300/300C, 2015/2016 Chrysler Town & Country, 2015/2016 Dodge Charger & Challenger (excluding SRT Hellcat), 2015/2016 Dodge Grand Caravan (excluding CVP/SE Plus), 2015/2016 Dodge Journey (excluding CVP/SE Plus), 2015/2016 Jeep Grand Cherokee, 2015/2016 Ram 1500 (excluding Regular Cab 4x2 & 4x4) and Ram Heavy Duty. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. See your retailer for complete details. ➤2.99% lease financing for up to 36 months available through SCI Lease Corp. to qualified customers on applicable new 2016 models at participating retailers. SCI provides all credit approval, funding and leasing services. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A)/2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E) with a Purchase Price of $29,290/$19,937 leased at 2.99% for 24/36 months with a $500 security deposit, $578/$1,058 down payment and first month's payment due at lease inception equals 24/36 monthly payments of $285/$238 with a cost of borrowing of $1,677.70/$1,461.91 (including $60.25 PPSA registration) and a total obligation of $7,723.95/$9,685.96. Kilometre allowance of 18,000/year. Cost of $0.16 per excess kilometre plus applicable taxes at lease termination. See your retailer for complete details. ∞1.49% lease financing for up to 48 months available through SCI Lease Corp. to qualified customers on applicable new 2016 models at participating retailers. SCI provides all credit approval, funding and leasing services. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2016 Jeep Cherokee Sport FWD (24A) with a Purchase Price of $25,147 leased at 1.49% for 48 months with a $500 security deposit, $1,028 down payment and first month's payment due at lease inception equals 48 monthly payments of $285 with a cost of borrowing of $1,118.68 (including $60.25 PPSA registration) and a total obligation of $14,777.53. Kilometre allowance of 18,000/year. Cost of $0.16 per excess kilometre plus applicable taxes at lease termination. See your retailer for complete details. ❖0% lease financing for 24 months available through SCI Lease Corp. to qualified customers on applicable new 2016 models at participating retailers. SCI provides all credit approval, funding and leasing services. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2016 Jeep Cherokee Sport FWD (24A) with a Purchase Price of $25,147 leased at 0% for 24 months with a $500 security deposit, $1,028 down payment and first month's payment due at lease inception equals 24 monthly payments of $376 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $10,104.85. Kilometre allowance of 18,000/year. Cost of $0.16 per excess kilometre plus applicable taxes at lease termination. See your retailer for complete details. ‡3.49% lease financing for up to 48 months available through SCI Lease Corp. to qualified customers on applicable new 2016 models at participating retailers. SCI provides all credit approval, funding and leasing services. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2016 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $19,252 leased at 3.49% for 48 months with a $500 security deposit, $898 down payment and first month's payment due at lease inception equals 48 monthly payments of $248 with a cost of borrowing of $1,991.30 (including $60.25 PPSA registration) and a total obligation of $12,865.55. Kilometre allowance of 18,000/year. Cost of $0.16 per excess kilometre plus applicable taxes at lease termination. See your retailer for complete details. *Consumer Cash/Jeep Cash Discounts are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. •$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest/Skilled Trades Bonus Cash is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2015/2016 Ram 1500 (excludes Regular Cab), 2014/2015/2016 Ram 2500/3500/Cab & Chassis, or 2015 Ram Cargo Van and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: 1. Current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram Pickup Truck or Large Van or any other manufacturer's Pickup Truck or Large Van. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before March 1, 2016. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. 2. Customers who are skilled tradesmen or are acquiring a skilled trade. This includes Licensed Tradesmen, Certified Journeymen or customers who have completed Apprenticeship Certification. A copy of the Trade Licence/Certification required. 3. Customers who are Beaumier Approved service providers. Proof of membership is required. Limit one $1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible truck transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ~Non-prime financing available on select models on approved credit. 4.99%/6.99% financing available on select 2016 models. Financing examples: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4/2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package with a Purchase Price of $29,868/$20,995 financed at 4.99%/6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $168/$146 with a cost of borrowing of $5,394/$5,614 and a total finance obligation of $35,262.47/$26,608.53. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. [1]Based on 2014 Ward's Middle Cross Utility segmentation. ^Based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles in Operation data available as of July, 2014 for Crossover Segments as defined by FCA Canada Inc. *Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by FCA Canada Inc. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

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U.S. puts on the emergency brakes

Automatic emergency braking systems help prevent crashes or diminish their severity.
SHUTTERSTOCK

SAFETY

Agreement represents 99 per cent of U.S. auto market

U.S. traffic safety authorities announced Thursday a voluntary deal with automakers to make automatic emergency braking a standard feature on new cars within the next seven years.

The commitment by 20 automakers, representing more than 99 per cent of the U.S. auto market, will make the safety technology a standard feature on cars and light trucks no later than late 2022, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said.

It will become standard on heavier trucks three years later.

Automatic emergency braking (AEB) systems help prevent crashes or diminish their severity by applying the brakes for the driver.

Sensors including radar, cameras and lasers warn the driver of an impending crash, and the brakes engage when the driver fails to take sufficient and timely action to prevent it.

Automakers that agreed to the commitment are Audi, BMW, FCA US, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Jaguar Land Rover, Kia, Maserati, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Mitsubishi Motors, Nissan, Porsche, Subaru, Tesla Motors, Toyota, Volkswagen and Volvo Car USA.

"By proactively making emergency braking systems standard equipment on their vehicles, these 20 automakers will help prevent thousands of crashes and save lives," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx in a statement.

"It's a win for safety and a win for consumers."

The head of the NHTSA, Mark Rosekind, sought to deflect criticism of the voluntary nature of the commitment, saying it would make AEB standard on new cars three years faster than a regulatory process. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, the accelerated process will prevent some 28,000 crashes and 12,000 injuries.

"A commitment of this magnitude is unprecedented, and it will bring more safety to more Americans sooner," Rosekind said.

In January, a group of consumer advocates petitioned the NHTSA to seek a mandatory AEB standard rather than a corporate pledge.
AFP

> **"By proactively making emergency braking systems standard equipment on their vehicles, these 20 automakers will help prevent thousands of crashes and save lives**
> Anthony Foxx, U.S. transportation secretary

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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4	9	3	5	1	6	2	8	7
8	2	5	7	9	3	6	1	4
6	7	1	2	4	8	5	9	3
5	4	7	9	2	1	3	6	8
1	8	2	6	3	4	9	7	5
9	3	6	8	7	5	4	2	1
3	1	9	4	8	2	7	5	6
2	5	4	1	6	7	8	3	9
7	6	8	3	5	9	1	4	2

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Three-in-one a 'starting point'

IN BRIEF

China's electric vehicle sales sluggish
China has found electric cars a tough sell even after lavishing consumers with subsidies and privileges, reports Automotive News China. Having failed to meet a target to have a half million EVs on its roads by the end of 2015, its next goal is to achieve a tenfold increase of EVs on the road today by the end of the decade. To meet its 2020 goal of five million electric cars, the government will speed construction of electric charging stations, reducing a major inconvenience for urban residents who don't have places to top up.

THE GREEN ANGLE
Metro's picks for the latest in environmental news

TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

ALUMINUM

Rolls-Royce drops weight

Known more for building five-tonne luxury limos than for being light-on-their-wheels, iconic Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is looking to lighten its vehicles' loads by developing a new aluminum space-frame architecture that it says will mark "the future of pure luxury motoring."

IONIQ

'Bold ambition'

The first car designed from the ground up to offer one of three distinct, advanced powertrains in a single body will be its manufacturer's "starting point" for future mobility. The Ioniq hatchback sedan embodies Hyundai's "new thinking and bold ambitions" for mobility,

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*Selling price is $37,425 on a new 2016 TLX (UB1F3G)] Selling price includes $1,995 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), air conditioning fee ($100) and OMVIC fee ($10). License, insurance, registration and taxes are extra. †Limited time lease offer based on a new 2016 Acura TLX (UB1F3G)] available through Acura Financial Services on approved credit. Representative lease example: 0.9% lease rate for 48 months (48 payments). Monthly payment is $368 with $2,650 down payment. 16,000 km allowance/year; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. Total lease obligation is $20,314. Offer includes EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), air conditioning fee ($100), OMVIC fee ($10), PPSA ($37) and Driving Perfection Event credit ($1,000). License, insurance, registration, options, duties and taxes are extra. PPSA lien registration fee and lien registering agent's fee are due at time of delivery. $1,000 Driving Perfection Event credit includes applicable sales taxes. ‡$3,500 Customer Cash Rebate (CCR) is available on new 2016 Acura TLX SH-AWD® Tech V6 (UB3F5GKN), and SH-AWD® Elite V6 (UB3F7GKN) models when registered and delivered before March 31, 2016. Total incentives consist of: (i) $2,000 that cannot be combined with lease/finance offers; and (ii) $1,500 that can be combined with lease/finance offers. All incentives will be deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes. Some terms/conditions apply. Model shown for illustration purposes only. Certain features are only available on certain trims. Offers end March 31, 2016 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. While quantities last.

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metro SPORTS

Georgia's Dominique Wilkins and Doug Collins of Illinois State will be inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame this fall

Fifty firmly in focus with Raps rolling on

NBA

No more poker faces as Lowry and Casey talk win milestone

Kyle Lowry generally hasn't been one for milestone moments this season.

Asked what it meant when he scored a franchise record 40 points in a preseason game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Lowry immediately said, "Not a damn thing."

As the Toronto Raptors proceeded to stockpile wins like never before, Lowry has taken the same cool one-game-at-a-time, every-day-is-a-learning-opportunity approach. With his team a win away from clinching its third consecutive playoff berth and two away from a franchise-best 50, the all-star point guard admitted that yeah, this group is on the cusp of something special.

> **The next play, next possession will take care of everything.**
> Dwane Casey

"I can't even hold that (in)," Lowry said after the Raptors' practice on Tuesday. "I think it matters because this franchise has never gotten 50 wins. We've been close the last two years and it's a big part of the NBA to get 50 wins.

"I can't even keep a poker face. Getting 50 wins is important to us."

Lowry's coach has less of an issue with that poker face.

"Right now I'm thinking (about win No.) 49, let's get to 49," he said. "If you do all those things, all the other things will take care of themselves."

With 13 games left on the schedule, the playoff berth and the record for wins are essentially locks for the Raptors.

While thinking about win No. 49, Dwane Casey continues to insist that he'll rest players as needed over the final three weeks of the regular season, but said that he's expecting his full roster to make the trip to Boston. The Raptors start a three-game road swing there on Wednesday before heading to Houston on Friday and facing an Anthony Davis-free New Orleans team on Saturday.

"We anticipate having all bodies on deck," Casey said. "We reserve the right to rest guys and we'll see who those guys are as we go along."

Even while resting bodies, whether it's by design or by injuries, the Raptors have continued to win.

They topped the Milwaukee Bucks on the road last week without DeMar DeRozan and are on a four-game win streak with Jonas Valanciunas (hand) out of the last four and James Johnson (plantar fasciitis) missing the last three. Sunday's win at home over Orlando came without Cory Joseph.

"I just want them to compete, that's all that matters," Lowry said of the players filling in for those resting or injured right now. "As long as you can be competitive and follow the game plan and make sure we're out there and just giving effort and competing, that's all that matters."

Casey undoubtedly wants the wins to continue rolling in over the next three weeks.

"Do what's in front of you, whether it's the possession or the quarter, whatever it is, let's do that," he said. "To think of a number (of wins) how many we've got to win or are going to win is irrelevant."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kyle Lowry and the Raptors could get a landmark 50th win as early as Friday against the Rockets. RON TURENNE/GETTY IMAGES

NHL

Morgan the merrier as Rielly racks it up

Maple Leafs defenceman Morgan Rielly is logging the most ice time of his NHL career these days.

Rielly, who set a career-high with over 31 minutes in a win over Detroit last week, is averaging more than 26 minutes per game in March. It's a heavy load for the 22-year-old, but he's well aware it's the norm for players like Ottawa's Erik Karlsson, L.A.'s Drew Doughty and other top blue-liners around the league.

"When you're tired the next day you look at them and that's what they do every night," Rielly said in a recent interview.

The Leafs have needed Rielly to assume a bigger load after veteran defencemen Dion Phaneuf and Roman Polak were traded last month and Matt Hunwick was lost to surgery.

"I think it's just less rest," Rielly said. "You're a bit more tired. At the same time you want to be out there that much, you want to get an opportunity to play big minutes. It's fun."

Rielly played 28 minutes last week against Florida and matched a career-high with his eighth goal of the season. He played 25 minutes in a game against Buffalo over the weekend and set a new career-high with his 31st point of the term.

> **You get to a point where this is kind of your comfort zone now.**
> Morgan Rielly

"I'm not really used to it, but (I'm) getting there," Rielly said. "The first couple times it might be a little much. You get to a certain point where this is your comfort zone now."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TERROR IN BELGIUM

Brussels attacks put fear in football

Belgium's national soccer team called off a practice session in Brussels on Tuesday after the city was hit by what authorities are calling terror attacks.

"Our thoughts are with the victims. Football is not important today," the Belgian soccer federation wrote in a Twitter message. "Training cancelled."

Belgium will host Portugal in a friendly match next Tuesday at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels, where the practice was scheduled. The game is a warmup for this year's European Championship.

Belgium captain Vincent Kompany wrote on Twitter that he was "horrified and revolted" by the attacks.

"I wish for Brussels to act with dignity. We are all hurting, yet we must reject hate and its preachers. As hard as it may be," Kompany wrote.

Three explosions early Tuesday at the Brussels airport and the Maelbeek metro station near European Union offices have been called terror attacks by Belgian authorities.

One international soccer player was at the Zavantem airport where two explosions were reported. Norwich forward Dieumerci Mbokani, who is from Congo, was "unharmed but shaken by the tragic events," the English club said in a statement.

Mbokani was visiting family in Brussels, where he played for Anderlecht for two seasons until 2013. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

10,000

Organizers announced last month that about 10,000 people had been privately hired for security for this Summer's European Championship in France.

TERROR IN BELGIUM

NBA icon Mutombo survives unscathed

NBA Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo was at the Brussels airport during a deadly terrorist attack early Tuesday.

Mutombo posted two messages on his Facebook page to let everyone know he was not injured. The Atlanta Hawks confirmed that he was in Belgium when the terrorists struck at both the airport and on a subway, killing at least 34 people and wounding scores.

Mutombo posted one photo showing people walking around outside the airport, accompanied by the message, "God is good. I am in Brussels Airport with this craziness. I am fine." He followed with a selfie and another message, "Thank you everyone. I am safe here. God is good."

Mutombo is a native of the Congo who now lives in Atlanta. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Huge win for UFC as NYC finally green-lights MMA

New York's Assembly voted 113-25 Tuesday to legalize mixed martial arts, clearing the way for fights late this year and expanding the combat sport into the last state to still prohibit it.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo supports legalizing the combination of wrestling, kickboxing and judo. But critics call MMA too violent and like football and boxing prone to causing concussions and head injuries. Advocates say it has evolved from rougher early days with more rules to protect fighters, who are trained professionals.

"What we seek to do is essentially take the sport out of the shadows in New York," said assemblyman Joseph Morelle, the lead sponsor before the bill was overwhelmingly approved in a big win for the UFC, the leading organizing body for MMA globally.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Presidents cheered as Havana hosts MLB team

1 Tampa Bay Rays players listen to the national anthems on Tuesday at the Estado Latinoamericano in Havana.

2 U.S. President Barack Obama talks to his Cuban counterpart, Raul Castro, field-side.

3 Dayron Varona, who defected from Cuba in 2013, hugs a player from Cuba's national team. GETTY IMAGES

DIPLOMACY

Obama, Castro watch as Rays take on Cuban national side

In a landmark game attended by presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro, the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Cuban national team 4-1 Tuesday in the first visit by a major league team to the communist island since 1999.

James Loney homered and drove in three runs, and Matt Moore and the Tampa Bay pitchers shut out the Cubans until Rudy Reyes homered in the ninth inning.

The game will be remembered less for the final score than for the two men sitting up front at Estadio Latinoamericano in Havana. The near-capacity crowd roared as Obama and Castro entered and walked toward their seats right behind home plate, waving to fans and greeting other dignitaries. Chants of "Raul! Raul!" broke out.

As the two countries try to heal more than 50 years of Cold War animosity, Obama and Castro sitting side-by-side was a remarkable sight. Obama wore a white shirt and sunglasses, while Castro wore a blazer.

The presidents took part when the fans tried to get "the wave" going early. Obama later signalled safe when Kevin Kiermaier safely slid home for the first run, then shook hands with Castro.

This was the first time since the Baltimore Orioles came 17 years ago during spring training that a big league club played in Cuba.

Rarely has so much pomp and circumstance accompanied an exhibition game. Former All-Stars Derek Jeter and Dave Winfield and Major League Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred were among the president's greeters. Secretary of State John Kerry was also in the VIP box, as well as several of Cuba's highest officials.

Before the first pitch, Rays players walked over from the dugout to say hello and passed flowers and small Cuban flags through the netting to first lady Michelle Obama and first daughter Sasha.

"Appreciate you guys," the president said.

Obama shared an extended handshake with ace pitcher Chris Archer, once a minor leaguer for the Chicago Cubs. He gave Obama, a White Sox fan, a glove owned by Moore.

Loud music and dancers on the field warmed the crowd up beforehand, and tots in tiny baseball uniforms escorted the players out during introductions. A white-clad choir sang both countries' national anthems and a flock of doves was unleashed from the centre-field stands.

Both Obama and Castro were gone by the third inning, but the stands remained packed until the final out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ CEREMONIAL PITCHES

President Barack Obama let some actual aces take care of the first pitches in Cuba.

Obama watched from the seats Tuesday when former stars Luis Tiant and Pedro Luis Lazo tossed out the ceremonial balls before the Tampa Bay Rays took on the Cuban national team.

And that was totally fine with the president.

"Nothing is more stressful than throwing out the first pitch," he kidded on an ESPN interview during the game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

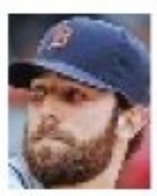
LAKELAND, FLA.

Bad back shouldn't put dent into Norris' resiliency reserve

Tuesday was not a good day for Daniel Norris.

Fighting for the final spot in the Detroit Tigers' rotation and facing his former team — who brought their varsity lineup — the 22-year-old lefty couldn't get out of the first inning. After a quick groundball out from Kevin Pillar, he allowed a flared single to Josh Donaldson and walked Jose Bautista before giving up a three-run blast to Troy Tulowitzki. Norris left the game two batters later with lower-back tightness, for which he had already missed a start.

Tuesday's outing — both the nagging injury and his performance — hurts his chances of heading north with the big-league club. But none that compares to the tumult he endured last season, which included the dizzying heights of cracking his first major-league roster and the sudden depths of a cancer diagnosis.



Daniel Norris GETTY IMAGES

Norris discovered a cancerous growth on his thyroid last summer but it was caught early and the prognosis was good. He was able to continue to pitch and had the tumour removed in the off-season.

"Baseball kept me sane," he wrote on Instagram in October when he shared his diagnosis publicly. "Regardless of results on the field, I forgot about it when I was between the lines."

On top of all that, Norris was traded for the first time in his career. Both the Jays and Tigers were aware of his health issues when he was sent to Detroit as the centrepiece of a package of prospects that brought David Price to Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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RECIPE Vegetarian Tostados

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Once you have the basics of this recipe down, feel free to freestyle the toppings with whatever you like (or, let's be honest, what's on hand).

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 x 14 oz can black beans, rinsed
- 1/4 cup cilantro, roughly chopped
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil, plus more for brushing
- 1 clove garlic, slicedy chopped
- cilantro plus 1/8 cup for garnish
- 1 lime, juiced
- pinch of salt
- 8 corn tortillas
- 1 ear of corn of fresh corn or 1 cup frozen
- 2 cups shredded iceberg lettuce
- 3/4 cup Monterey Jack cheese, grated
- 1/4 cup sour cream

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 425. In a food processor, place beans, oil, lime juice, garlic, cilantro and salt. Blend until mixture reaches the consistency of hummus. Remove from processor and spoon into a small bowl.

2. Boil corn until cooked. Remove from water and allow to cool a few minutes. Cut kernels from ear. Place in a bowl. Place shredded lettuce, shaved cheese, chopped cilantro and sour cream in various small bowls.

3. Lightly brush each tortilla with olive oil on each side and bake in oven on a cookie sheet for about 7 minutes. Remove and serve immediately.

4. Place tortilla on plate and layer with black bean dip, lettuce, cheese and corn. Feel free to free style this dish with additional toppings like peppers, tomatoes and slices of avocado.

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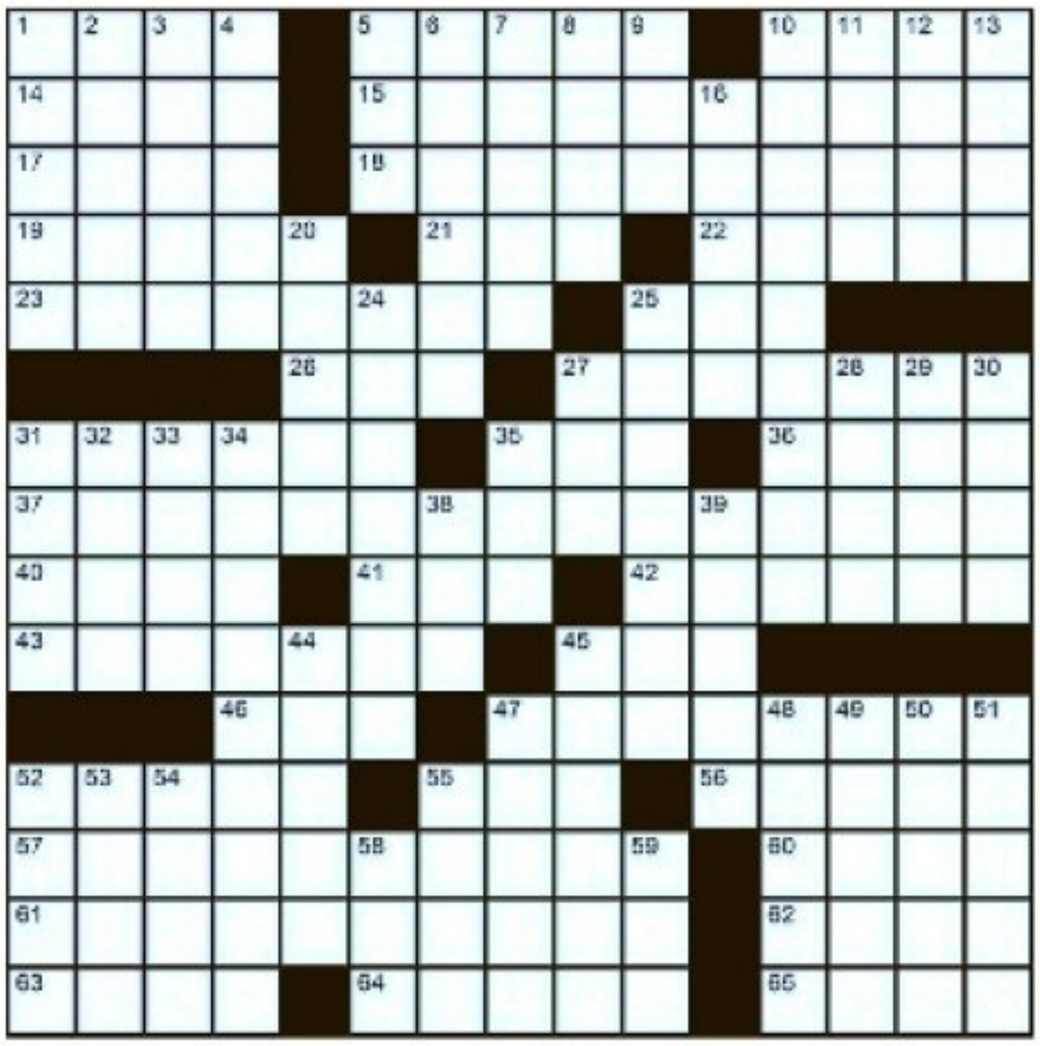
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Researcher's helper, briefly
5. Rover
10. Tina Turner's "Better Be Good __"
14. Ms. Buzzi of comedy
15. Destroyer
17. Beatles hit bit: "...goodbye and _ _ hello..."
18. Craft in Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario that's really 'grape'
19. Mitten part
21. _ rummy
22. Long-looking squares, briefly
23. Offshore oil platform in the Jeanne d'Arc Basin of Newfoundland's Grand Banks
25. Dharma's portrayer on "Dharma & Greg" ...her initials-sharers
26. "I got an '_' _ the exam!" (I'm smart!)
27. Electronics giant of Japan
31. Chanel No. 5, par exemple
35. Form of stage show in Japan
36. Car rental company
37. Acred attraction in Winnipeg: 2 wds.
40. Saint Lawrence, et al.
41. Have a _ to pick
42. Buys
43. High Renaissance painter of Sistine Madonna
45. French for 'me'
46. Compass point
47. BC: Scottish-born industrialist who had Victoria landmark Craigdarroch Castle built for his family, Robert _ (b.1825 - d.1889)
52. Mr. Sharif's
55. Beaver State [abbr.]
56. Fashion mag
57. Frozen layer of ground as in the Arctic
60. Dog breeds, e.g.
61. Vatican VIP's vehicle
62. Chill
63. Hans Christian Andersen creature
64. Gain admittance: 2 wds.
65. Roger of "Cheers"

DOWN
1. It has its pluses and minuses, briefly
2. Seaweed-wrapped appetizer
3. Baseball great Rusty
4. Herb variety
5. Novel
6. Dawn
7. 'Beatle' suffix
8. Toronto-born actor Mr. Young
9. Shadowy
10. Form: 2 wds.
11. Relating to the ear
12. State bordering Sask.
13. Work units
16. Doesn't disregard
20. Electric shavers name
24. Potential Juno Award winner
25. 'J' of LBJ
27. Parisian pronoun
28. John, Russia-style
29. Nest dweller
30. Questions
31. Henry VIII outliver Catherine
32. "Sole Survivor" band
33. Inviter's request
34. Seafood suppliers
35. Negative word
38. Cartoonist Mr. Keane
39. Church goer, e.g.
44. Type of tea from India
45. Morningtime mixture
47. Legal right
48. Grinding tooth
49. Hydro bill factor
50. Permeate
51. Romantic flowers
52. Night-and-Day and Cold-and-Hot, e.g.
53. Woof's counterpart
54. Harp, in Italy
55. Iron Maiden's "Be Quick __ Dead"
58. "House of Sand and _" (2003)
59. Commandments number

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today you will strive to find a balance in everything you do, especially with work or your health. From here on, things will get better. Factoid.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
After the Full Moon peaks this morning, you will feel more in control of your life. You also will feel a balance between fun plans and your ability to make them a reality.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Relations with others will improve after the Full Moon peaks this morning. You feel better between loyalty to partners and your home and family.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
The tension of today's Full Moon will subside after it peaks this morning. You will see an improvement in all your communications with others — no question.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Take it easy today to avoid accidents. However, your financial situation is looking better and better, isn't it? Good for you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Financial disputes will calm down after this morning. This is just one example of how you are starting to feel a balance between your home obligations and your personal freedom.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will feel better after the Full Moon peaks this morning. You will also have a better direction and a better idea about your future plans.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Tension on the work front will relax after the Full Moon peaks this morning. Ultimately, you feel an increasing confidence in your financial future and your ability to earn money. Bravo!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Difficulties with friends will subside after the Full Moon peaks this morning. In fact, your relations with everyone — especially authority figures — will move to a more solid footing.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will feel calmer after the Full Moon peaks this morning. In fact, future travel plans or plans regarding further education look doable and even sensible. Yay!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Life will be easier after the Full Moon peaks this morning. You can breathe a sigh of relief because you see that you have the support of others, which is what you really wanted.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Financial tensions will diminish after the Full Moon peaks this morning. Your ambition to make a name for yourself looks much more doable. You have faith in your future!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	7	8		5		9		1
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			9	6	3	5		
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